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Non-Orthodox agree to delay petitions

By HAIM SHAPIRO, LIAT COLLINS, and BATSHEVA TSUR

Representatives of the Reform and Conservative movements yesterday yielded to mounting pressure and agreed to delay their petitions to the High Court of Justice on conversion and the religious councils, giving the Neeman Committee more time to reach a compromise.

Deal takes thunder out of US Reform meet, Page 3

According to the agreement, which followed the intervention of President Ezer Weizman, the two movements are to delay until January their petitions asking that their representatives be seated on local religious councils, and that those converted here by Reform and Conservative rabbis be registered as Jews.

In return, the government and the religious parties agreed to defer the conversion bill, which would recognize only Orthodox conversions performed here, and the religious councils bill, which would keep Reform and Conservative representatives off the local religious councils.

The pressure on the Conservative and the Reform to agree to yet another delay had come from both opposition and coalition parties, which had promised to vote against the two bills.

The committee, headed by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, had been appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in June, with an original deadline for a decision set for August 15.

A key factor in gaining the agreement of the Conservative and Reform was the presence at Beit Hanassi of Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, head of the Tsomet Institute in Alon Shvut, which organizes conversion activities for the Chief Rabbinate.

Rosen told the Reform and Conservative representatives that he had come with the knowledge and agreement of Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron.

However, in a later statement, Bakshi-Doron insisted that although Rosen had been at the meeting with his knowledge, Rosen's presence had been in a private capacity, just as Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen and Migdal Ha'emek Rabbi David Grossman, both members of the Chief Rabbinate Council, had come before the Neeman Committee in private capacities.

"We never said we were not ready for dialogue. However we cannot recognize as rabbis people who perform marriages which are not in accord with the custom of Moses and Israel," Bakshi-Doron said.

Also present at the meeting were MKs Alex Lubotzky and Yehuda Harel of the Third Way.

The two agreed that this would definitely be the last such delay and committed themselves to vote against any legislation which is not in accord with a compromise arrived upon by the Neeman Committee.

Rabbi Uri Reggev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center and a member of the committee, said yesterday he was sorry that Rosen had not come earlier with his message.

See PETITIONS, Page 11

Huge gain marks Dow recovery



A trader shouts her order yesterday at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. (Dan Ossendyker/Israel Sun)

Biggest point rise ever in US; Tel Aviv slumps 8%

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

The New York Stock Exchange bounced back yesterday from its worst drop since the 1987 crash, posting its biggest point gain ever for a single day and smashing the volume record with more than 1.1 billion shares traded.

Stocks soared higher yesterday afternoon, recovering from an early morning slump, as investors shrugged off Monday's historic nose-dive and instead jumped at the cheap prices now available.

On the day after its biggest point drop in history, the Dow rose 333.98 points to 7,495.13.

Israeli analysts said they expect the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange to follow suit and bounce back today.

The TASE suspended trading for 45 minutes yesterday after prices plummeted more than 8 percent in the first 15 minutes of trade, following Wall Street's lead.

The Mishtanim Index was down 8.4% to 269.88, a drop of 24.82 points. The Maof Index slid slightly more than 8% to 279.65, a fall of 24.44 points.

Redemptions from mutual funds amounted to some NIS 500 million out of total assets of NIS 20 billion, according to Zvi Stepak,

managing director of Meitav Investments and Securities. The TASE posted its worst one-day fall since August 12, 1994, when the government said it

Skidding markets highlight global village, Page 2  
Crash has little effect on Israelis, Page 11  
TASE suffers worst daily plunge since '94, Page 13

planned to impose a capital gains tax. Traders said that the main sellers were portfolio managers and mutual funds.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to comment on the stock exchange, but said the economy is "very strong" and in the final analysis, "a capital market reflects the strength of its national economy."

Israel is becoming the second-biggest high-tech power internationally after the US, he said.

See DOW, Page 7

US ambassador-designate supports Jerusalem embassy

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The US nominee as the next ambassador to Israel, Edward Walker, said yesterday that if confirmed he would carry out legislation to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem, assuming that President Bill Clinton agrees to do so.

Walker made the comment to Senate Near East Subcommittee chairman Sam Brownback at his confirmation hearing.

He said he had anticipated many questions on the embassy issue, and was surprised that none was forthcoming during the hearing.

Walker also said final-status talks between Israel and the Palestinians could begin soon, but that a great deal of mutual reassurance is still needed on the issues of settlements and security.

"We are making some progress [in the interim-status negotiations]," he said, but added that the discussions on further IDF withdrawal, a settlement "time-out," and security issues will likely move slowly.

In his prepared remarks, Walker stated that "only the Israeli people can divine the peace and security for which they strive" and pledged that, if confirmed, "I will do all I can to bring that vision closer."

Walker, who is currently concluding his ambassadorship to Egypt, said he expects that as the peace process develops, Israeli-Egyptian relations will improve. He noted that his first foreign service posting during his 28-year career was in Tel Aviv.

Daniel Kurtzer, the US nominee to replace Walker in Cairo, told the panel that Washington's "investment in Egypt as a peace partner has paid dividends," because it stood with the US in the Gulf War, Bosnia, and Somalia.

Kurtzer, who has previously served at the US Embassy in Cairo, would be the first American Jewish ambassador there.

Turkish PM stymies military contract to Israel-Singapore firm

By METEHAN DEMIR

ANKARA - Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz has postponed a decision to award an Israeli-Singapore consortium an \$80 million contract to upgrade the electronics and avionics systems on Turkey's aging F-5 aircraft.

Instead, he has ordered the Defense Industry Executive Board, which chose the Israel Aircraft Industries-Elbit-Singapore Aerospace Industries group over a competing bid from French firm Sagem S.A., to reconsider the French bid.

The reason behind the decision is said to be intensive French support for Turkish efforts to become a European Union (EU) member, over the objections of some EU countries.

LAJ executives acknowledged that their company is bidding with Singapore Aerospace for the F-5 upgrade, but said they have not received any word regarding the results of the competition.

Turkey plans to spend \$150 billion to modernize and properly equip the Turkish Armed Forces over the next 25 years.

Senior defense and military officials reportedly criticized Yilmaz's decision to give France another chance, saying that the price difference between the French proposal and the Israel-Singapore bid is \$20 million - \$100m. vs. \$80m.

The Defense Industry Executive Board is expected to meet to review the bids again in a few weeks. The board consists of Yilmaz, Chief of General Staff Gen. Ismail Hakkı Karadayı, and Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin. Other top defense officials will attend the meeting as consultants.

Steve Rodan contributed to this report.

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# NEWS

in brief

## Seven to be fired in Hasharon Prison escape

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday accepted the findings of the police inquiry into the escape of seven Palestinian prisoners from the Hasharon Prison three weeks ago. The 10-page report called for the firing of the prison's chief warden and six deputies. In addition, one warden will receive a reprimand and another will receive a disciplinary hearing. Both, however, will remain in the Prisons Service. "The results are extremely serious and cannot be ignored and justice must be served," said Kahalani. *Margot Dudkevitch*

## Mordechai to stress 'strategic edge' in US visit

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to stress the need to preserve the IDF's "qualitative edge" in upcoming annual strategic talks in the US. Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran left yesterday for Washington for meetings with Pentagon and State Department officials in preparation for Mordechai's visit next week.

Biran is also to present the Americans with plans to modernize the IDF to face long-range threats, defense officials said. The US gives Israel \$1.8 billion in defense grants annually, the majority of which must be spent in the US. Also likely to arise on the agenda will be the threat from Iran and Iraq, Islamic terror, and the prevention of the proliferation of non-conventional weapons technology, particularly from Russia to Iran. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

## MKs move to remove Netanyahu

MK Rafi Eini (Labor) yesterday presented a request signed by 40 MKs to remove Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister. Under the Direct Elections Law, the request must be presented to the Knesset House Committee for discussion and, if it passes, to the plenum where it needs an 80 MK majority to pass. The move is considered more demonstrative than realistic. Labor's Ra'anan Cohen, Moshe Shabai, and Haim Ramon filed a complaint with the Knesset Ethics Committee against Netanyahu regarding his statement that "the Left has forgotten what it is to be Jewish." *Liat Collins*

## Three Palestinian homes demolished

The Civil Administration demolished three partially built homes in two villages in the Bethlehem area yesterday. Spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said the owners of the houses had ignored notices asking them to destroy the structures. He stressed the structures had been illegally built and were located in Area C, giving Israel full responsibility in security and civil affairs. Two were in Faradis and the third in Harmaleh. *Margot Dudkevitch*

## Barred rabbi asks to be allowed into Israel

A US rabbi banned from Israel for suggesting Jewish law allowed the murder of Yitzhak Rabin has apologized for his comments and asked to be allowed to visit, Channel 1 reported yesterday. Two years ago, Rabbi Abraham Hecht caused an uproar by suggesting in an interview with an American magazine that Rabin could be killed for handing parts of the biblical Israel to the Palestinians. Hecht recently applied for a visa and was rejected, the TV said. He then wrote to Interior Minister Eli Suissa apologizing for inflammatory past statements. *AP*

## PA releases journalist who wrote on torture

The Palestinian Authority yesterday released journalist Khaled Amayreh, who was arrested on Sunday after an Israeli-Arab newspaper published his article on PA torture of Hamas detainees. Amayreh was not available for comment. He had quoted two Hamas detainees in an article in the Umm al-Fahm-based weekly *Sawt al-Haq w'al Hurriya* who detailed the beatings and torture they sustained in the PA prison in Dahariya. PA security officials said the story was a lie, but denied that they had arrested Amayreh. Instead, they said he was being held for questioning. *Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib*

## Man stabbed to death in Netanya

Shalom Halfon, 28, was stabbed to death yesterday in the parking lot of a Netanya apartment building during what police say may have been an argument over money. At 1:15 p.m., a car pulled up at Laniado Hospital and a man brought Halfon into the emergency room, the knife still in his chest, and left. Police later found the man, who was a friend of Halfon's. Halfon had been rushed into surgery but died on the operating table. Halfon had been convicted of drug and property crimes, and was said to have owed money to certain criminals, while others owed money to him. *Tim*

## Eilat man killed in road accident

Gavriel Hamias, 48, of Eilat, was killed yesterday, when his car swerved into the oncoming lane and collided head-on with a truck on the Arava road near Kibbutz Yabel. Meanwhile, the Transport Ministry issued a reminder yesterday that from November 1 to March 31, all cars travelling on intercity roads must have their headlights on during the day, as well as at night. *Tim*

## Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 8 of spades, the king of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the jack of clubs. In the second drawing, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the ace of hearts, the king of diamonds and the jack of clubs. In the weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 9, 10, 11, 20, 32, and 35. The supplementary number was 34.

# Levine: IDF on offensive in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

The IDF is once again taking the initiative in the fight against Hizbullah in south Lebanon, despite a recent string of tragedies and setbacks. Two gunmen are believed to have been killed in a clash with Golani Brigade troops on the northern perimeter of the security zone early yesterday morning. This follows a similar incident, involving another Golani unit from the same battalion last Friday, in which three gunmen were killed. There were no IDF casualties in either of the initiated operations, both in the Wadi Saluki region.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine hinted yesterday the IDF is resuming operations aimed at putting Hizbullah on the defensive. "No solution can come solely from defense. We have to regain the offensive initiative and hit Hizbullah, and this we will do," said Levine.

He spoke to reporters during an army sports day in Kiryat Shmona in memory of paratrooper company commander Maj. Ori Azulai, who was killed in an Hizbullah bomb attack in south Lebanon a year ago.

In yesterday's incident, the IDF Spokesman said the soldiers spotted a squad of gunmen and, supported by helicopter gunships, hit a number of them. The extent of the casualties among the gunmen was not known, although some reports said at least two were killed.

Hizbullah issued a statement saying members of its fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, on Monday night had thwarted an attempt by a platoon-size IDF squad from "infiltrating the liberated areas" — used by Hizbullah to denote the region north of the security zone.

Lebanese radio stations, meanwhile, reported a larger than usual number of flights by IAF warplanes over different parts of Lebanon yesterday, although there were no raids.

Fighting was reported elsewhere in the security zone throughout yesterday, with long-range mortar and anti-tank missile attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions.

In one incident, Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars and light weapons at IDF troops in the central sector and at a nearby SLA position. There were no casualties and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.



**Seek justice**  
Supreme Court Registrar Judge Alon Gilon makes a point yesterday as (from left) Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu listen. Netanyahu and Hanegbi visited the court to discuss reforms in the judiciary. *(Flash 90)*

# PM: Arad still is alive

By LIAT COLLINS

Missing LAP navigator Ron Arad is still believed to be alive, according to intelligence reports. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday. He would not elaborate and declined to say where Israel believes Arad is being held.

Netanyahu said he would check the matter with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who maintained that Arad is dead. He said he did not know where Primakov got his information.

He said Primakov did not take any special messages from here to Syria or bring back any significant messages.

Meanwhile, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) held the founding meeting of the Movement to Leave Lebanon in Peace in the Knesset last night. Some 22 well-known figures have joined so far, Beilin said although not all of them were present.

The movement includes several MKs from Labor and Meretz; Zvi Weinberg from Yisrael Ba'alya; former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat; former Foreign Ministry director-general Reuven Merhav; Aharon Valenci, the head of the Upper Galilee Regional Council; writers; entertainers; academics; and peace movement supporters.

It is calling for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. As part of its campaign, it has created a simulation game presenting scenarios and courses of action which could follow a pullback.

# Albright irked at delay in talks

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday that Israeli preparations for peace talks were taking longer than Washington would like.

"I spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu this morning — about the necessity of moving this process forward," Albright said. "We are still pushing to have these meetings take place. Time is kind of piling up here. It seems to be dragging on rather more than I would have liked."

"We certainly wanted to have the talks commence as soon as possible," another senior US

official said. "We're frustrated and disappointed that this has been held up."

The US, he said, is awaiting the outcome of today's security cabinet meeting and is hoping that the negotiations can begin soon, even with this week's target date apparently being missed. State Department spokesman James Rubin criticized the Israeli delays, saying on Monday that Albright believes that time should not "be wasted."

Rubin said he would not delve into the reasons for Foreign Minister David Levy's decision to delay departure for Washington to meet with PA chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas.

Ambassador Elisha Ben-Elissar urged the administration to be patient. While the internal debate in Jerusalem has caused a delay, the aim is to have productive talks once they are held, he said yesterday.

"The matters that are on the agenda are related to basic security needs of Israel and have a direct influence on the defense of the country," Ben-Elissar said. "It's only natural that before holding such talks, the inner cabinet will have a serious debate and will stake out its position to give Israel's delegation, headed by the foreign minister."

The inner cabinet is due to convene in Jerusalem today.

# Dozens protest plans for Jerusalem suburb

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Scores of Palestinians and Peace Now activists demonstrated yesterday opposite the Judea and Samaria Civil Administration headquarters in Beit El against a planned 12,000-dunam (3,000-acre) building development linking Ma'aleh Adumim to Jerusalem.

At the same time, Palestinian landowners presented their own objections before the civil administration, protesting that if the plan is implemented their land would be confiscated.

Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari charged that the plan, called E-1, is a political move to deny Palestinians territorial continuity. "If these plans are approved Har Homa will be nothing compared to what will happen," she said.

Villages that will be affected if the plans are implemented include Azariya, Abu Dis, Anatot, Issawiya, A-Ram, and A-Tur. Ya'ari said the plan will force Palestinians from Nablus seeking to reach Hebron, or those

wishing to travel from Bethlehem to Ramallah, to cross through Israel.

"The plan will cause Palestinian villages to be totally cut off and turned into isolated enclaves," she said. The plan also casts a shadow on Palestinian aspirations to establish a capital in Abu Dis.

Civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said that over 100 Palestinians had registered objections, and the administration's committee has been hearing them for some months. "It will take a long time before the committee finishes hearing them all," he said, adding that afterwards any changes would have to be discussed before the plan is approved.

The E-1 project calls for the construction of 10,000 housing units and hotels said Ya'ari. "The area in question is in Area C and is due to be discussed with the Palestinians in negotiations regarding further withdrawals," she said, adding that the project's implementation would cause a complete breakdown of the peace talks.

# Hebron Jews to protest Shuhada St. opening

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Hebron Jewish community will hold a demonstration outside Beit Hadassah early this morning to protest the opening of Shuhada Street to Palestinian traffic.

Leaders of the Hebron community were notified of the opening by the IDF commander of Hebron yesterday morning. He told them that the plan was stipulated in the Oslo and Hebron Accords.

Civil Administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said that the authorities are implementing Stage 1 of the plan and it will be treated as a test case to see how it works and if any changes are necessary.

Lerner said the section of Shuhada Street between the Pedesco gas station and Gross Square will be open to public transport. The side road leading from the gas station toward Shallahah Street will be one way and open to all traffic.

As the Hebron community was meeting to discuss strategy, Consul John Hearst from the US Consulate in east Jerusalem, accompanied by other US officials

and Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, visited Shuhada Street. The group also visited the surrounding area, including the Jewish quarter.

Shuhada Street was closed to Arab traffic three-and-a-half years ago, after scores of Palestinians were killed by Baruch Goldstein as they prayed in the Machpela Cave.

The road has undergone extensive repairs, with a US company undertaking the work in coordination with the Palestinian Authority and the Civil Administration.

For months, the Hebron Jewish community has waged a battle against the roadwork and the plans to open the road to Arab traffic.

Spokesman Noam Arnon said that the opening of the road would endanger the security of the Jewish community.

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m., at the YMCA, King David Street. Dr. Norman Spector, President and Publisher of the Jerusalem Post, will address the club.

## IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

# Skidding world markets highlight 'global village'

The world's plummeting stock markets — more so than CNN, El Nino, or the death of Princess Diana — have linked destinies around the planet and given true meaning to the phrase "global village."

Large and small investors from Holon to Hadera and Haifa woke up yesterday to the realization that just as billions of dollars were washed away the day before in New York, Hong Kong, and Brazil, the same would happen in Tel Aviv.

This concern, this sinking feeling felt by thousands of Israelis watching money disappear, was similar to the concern and same sinking feeling felt by tens of millions around the world. Universal empathy.

And there was good reason, very good reason, for the Israeli concern. The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange dropped nearly 10 percent yesterday in trading that was described by observers as "hysterical."

The hysteria was palpable on the

floor of the exchange. As soon as visitors opened the door to one of the three trading halls in operation, they were struck by a high-pitched cacophony.

"Sell!" youthful traders screamed into their microphones, often looking as if they were going to swallow those same microphones. "Sell!" they entreated with wild flails of their arms. "Sell!" they pleaded with the pit worker taking their orders, who was trying — mostly in vain — to control the frenzied scene.

"People, don't scream all at once," he shouted at one point. The traders chuckled, and then continued with the hysteria.

It was a hysteria that was reproduced on dozens of stock market floors around the world. The same dealer against the same nervous energy. The same loud cackling. The scene was the same, only the languages differed.

"In my three years working here," said one TASE employee. "I've never seen anything even close to this. It's been here in other forms, but nothing close to this. This is frenzy."

Outside the TASE, on serene Rehov Ahad Ha'am, there was no visible agitation. Worried citizens did not run to the stock exchange to vent their anger; the up-scale looking brokerage houses nearby were not full of clients clamoring through the doors.

Elisha Rosenfeld, a broker at the Lehava Brokerage House, said that had the collapse taken place prior to the last major TASE blip in 1994, the scene would have been different, since there were so many more individuals invested in the market then.

But the '94 fall chased the "little guy" out of the market en masse, he said, leaving the trading primarily in the hands of large institutions.

Rosenfeld said yesterday's "mini-collapse," as one radio correspondent dubbed the fall — thus fuelling the fires even more — hit the TASE only after the steep drop in New York on Monday, not the collapse in Hong Kong last week, because of the link between the Israeli and US economies, and because so many key Israeli firms are traded on Wall Street.

With sorrow we announce the passing of our mother

## RENATE FREUDENTHAL

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, October 29, 1997 (28 Tishrei 5758) at 11:00 a.m., leaving from the Kehilat Yerushalayim funeral parlor (opposite Herzog hospital), Givat Shaul.

**Gad and Gideon Freudenthal and families**

## RUGGLE FOR THE PAST AND PRESENT

Ruth Matar interviews

**Rechavam Ze'evy** - Knesset Member / IDF General (Res.)

**Ezra Yakhin** - Lehi fighter and author of "Elnakam"

**Kare Kristiansen** - Past President of the Norwegian Parliament

Wednesday, October 29, at 9 p.m.

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97.3 FM Radio\*

\*This new hour-long program in English of "Women in Green" will be broadcast every Wednesday at 9 p.m.

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הכרזת איחוד

# Reform to vote on gay and interfaith marriage

By MARYLIN HENRY

NEW YORK — The synagogue arm of the Reform movement opens its convention today in Dallas with much of the thunder deflated by yesterday's announcement that the Reform and Conservative movements would defer their legal efforts to get formal recognition of their movements in Israel.

Nonetheless, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations is voting on resolutions on gay marriage and rabbinic officiation at intermarriages that seemed poised to irritate the Orthodox religious authorities in Israel.

The resolutions also appear to tweak the Reform rabbinic organization, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, by saying there is a CCAR tradition in which the rabbis have adopted resolutions that themselves are "contrary to Jewish tradition." These include patrilineal descent and the ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis. Political observers had feared

that the convention, which is expected to attract some 5,000 Reform Jews from its 800 synagogues, would provide a public arena for the frustrated movement to vent its anger at the Israeli government.

Instead, the convention is to consider a proposed resolution on religious freedom in Israel that, in draft form, calls for only limited action and issues no threats. The proposal calls on the Jewish Agency, as well as the Council of Jewish Federations, to urge Israel to end the religious monopoly of the Chief Rabbinate and to extend equal recognition and support to all streams of Judaism.

The convention is expected to pass a resolution supporting civil marriage for gay and lesbian Jewish couples. This builds on a 1993 UAHC stance calling for full legal equality for gay men and lesbians, which in turn "requires legal recognition of monogamous domestic gay and lesbian relationships."

It also is expected to prod the

CCAR to continue their "studies of the appropriateness of religious ceremonies for use in a celebration of commitment recognizing a monogamous domestic relationship between two Jewish gay men or two Jewish lesbians."

The Reform laity is more liberal than its rabbis, which is divided over rabbinic officiation at intermarriages. More than 75 percent of Reform Jews favor rabbinic officiation at intermarriages, where the couple agrees to identify as a Jewish household and raise any children as Jews, according to a Jewish Outreach Institute survey.

Rabbis in the Reform movement are free to make their own decisions about officiating at intermarriages. However, the official CCAR position, in a 1973 resolution, opposes rabbinic officiation.

According to the CCAR leadership, some 20%-25% of Reform Jews marry non-Jews. But, according to the 1990 Jewish Population Survey, the intermarriage rate of synagogue-affiliated Reform Jews is over 50%.



**All smiles**  
Orthodox Rabbi Yisrael Rosen (left) and Reform Rabbi Richard Hirsch (right) meet at Beit Hanassi yesterday as Reform Rabbi Uri Regev looks on. The Reform and Conservative movements agreed during a meeting with President Ezer Weizman to give the Neeman Committee three months to come up with a compromise on the conversion and religious council issues. (Flash 90)

## RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

In commenting on the conversion issue, the Russian press expresses concern about the unity of the Jewish people and pinpoints certain problems faced by new Russian immigrants.

In *Vremya*, Aliza Shinhar, a former ambassador to Russia, is quoted as saying, "I am concerned that the Orthodox dictate their demands to everybody. Torah has 70 faces, and it is wrong to make major decisions on the basis of only one of them."

On the subject of new immigrants from the CIS who are not halachically Jewish, she said, "Because religion in Israel is not separate from the state, religious law plays an important role in the life of Israelis... The conversion issue is a critical concern, so it is imperative to find a compromise among the different streams of Judaism."

Anna Isaakova stresses in *Vesti* that separation from Judaism has become common among secular Jews in Israel. "A liberal approach does not oblige Israelis to be Jews." As a result, she says, "Jewish history, religion, and culture will be for the future Israeli what the Pyramids and the Sphinx are for the contemporary Egyptian."

She complains that while "the Jewish people is going nowhere... the Orthodox continue to be oblivious to all new developments in Judaism, as though there were no Holocaust, no mass assimilation..."

But she also criticizes the Reform, who have gone too far in altering the basic principles of Judaism. "Judaism is not just a religion but a way of life... The final result will depend not on the external features of Judaism but on its internal development." But, she concludes, "The Knesset is not a laboratory in which to do this work."

How will the Russian MKs vote should the topic arise in the Knesset? In *Vremya*, Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Roman Bronfman confesses that his party's previous position was a condition of the coalition agreement and "does not correspond to the interests of our voters." It provoked serious criticism of the party and Natan Sharansky.

"We hoped for a compromise," Bronfman said. "But if the religious parties insist on passing the law, we will do everything we can

to prevent it."

Uri Stern, another Yisrael Ba'aliya MK, appealed to the religious parties "to agree to a compromise and thus prevent a split in Israeli society."

### Meretz - the party of Sakharov?

Russian immigrants rarely vote for extremist parties. But Meretz, which has not given up hope of gaining their support, is doing intensive work among the Russian population. In *Vesti* there are two opposing views about its prospects.

Sofia Bright, in an interview with activists of the youth branch of Meretz, presents their hopes for success among young Russians who, they say, "are not former Russians, but Israelis. They, especially those who went to university, understand the political situation and can accept our side."

Meretz's main selling point for Russian voters is the issue of "religious dictatorship." She says, "Yisrael Ba'aliya has not fulfilled the expectations of its voters. It does not act on their behalf but on behalf of their coalition allies, the Orthodox parties."

Denying allegations that Meretz is anti-patriotic, the activists said they are "against nationalistic patriots who are united by hatred of other nations. Our patriotism is not based on hate." Their political credo is: "It is better to cut out a malignant tumor (i.e., to give up the territories captured in 1967) than to condemn a person to die from it."

*Vesti* journalist Sofia Ron, named "Journalist of the Year" by the readership, criticized Meretz and its secretary-general Benny Temkin who, to gain popularity among Russians, called Meretz the Sakharov Party. "An uncompromising critic of communism," states Ron, "Sakharov would never have supported a party that was in alliance with communists."

Like previous efforts of Temkin's to convince Russian immigrants that Meretz members are "not Bolsheviks, nor anti-religious... that they have no great love for Arabs, homosexuals and lesbians," this attempt to use the name of the most renowned Russian dissident is doomed to fail, says Ron. She concludes: "The Russian intellectual elite who, for the most part, strongly opposed communism, incline toward the right."

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Brikman

# Pollard: Israel is burying me alive

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Jonathan Pollard, the former US naval analyst convicted of spying for Israel, yesterday charged that the government is not doing anything to secure his release even though it can free its agents when it wants.

The statement came in advance of a petition to the High Court of Justice, which is due to be heard today, in which Pollard demands that the government officially recognize him as an Israeli agent.

"The government knows how to get its agents out," Pollard said, referring to the release of two Mossad agents held in Jordan after the Mashaal Affair. "The government knows how to act on information when it wants to. It got them out in a couple of days.

These two guys weren't left to rot for years in a foreign prison. "Believe me, for 13 years the government has been paying only lip service. They were burying me alive. They [Israel] want me here for as long as they [the US authorities] bloody well keep me here," Pollard continued. "If I die here, the truth will die with me."

Pollard was speaking in a taped conversation released to the media by his wife, Esther Zeitz Pollard. The petition is due to be heard in camera by the High Court this morning. Pollard himself will attend.

Pollard's lawyer, Larry Duh, said yesterday that he is not sure whether he will ask the court to lift its decision to hold the hearings in camera. He said the decision was relayed to him Monday by tele-

phone and that a closed door hearing could "help both sides to be more at ease to state their real positions... All the parties can then be as flexible as possible."

"In its response, the government has not refuted point by point the allegations in our petition - that Pollard was an agent working for Israel and that there were promises made to him that have not been kept," Duh said. "I'm hopeful the court will recognize our position."

**Liat Collins adds:**  
Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told parliamentary reporters yesterday that Israel has not abandoned Pollard.

He said he had raised the matter at least three times with US President Bill Clinton, adding that Pollard should be returned to Israel.



### Out-of-school activities

Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann (with bullhorn) yesterday joins high school students protesting against the Knesset against the cancellation of school trips due to a dispute over paying teachers to accompany them. The Secondary School Teachers Association announced yesterday it would permit its teachers to escort pupils to ceremonies on November 12 to mark the anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, but otherwise would continue forbidding teachers to accompany school trips.

(Text: Aryeh Dean Cohen; photo: Isaac Harel)

## Discovery can help prevent potentially fatal infant jaundice

By JUDY SEGEL

Researchers in Jerusalem and La Jolla, California have discovered that two gene mutations that separately are harmless can together significantly increase the risk of potentially fatal jaundice and irreversible brain damage in newborn babies.

The findings, published in yesterday's issue of the *Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences*, were reported by lead author Dr. Michael Kaplan of Shaare Zedek Hospital, along with colleagues at Shaare Zedek, Kupat Holim Clalit, the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and the Scripps Research Institute in California.

The researchers identified genes that cause a condition called kernicterus, which takes place when bilirubin - a yellowish substance produced by the breakdown of the red blood cells' hemoglobin - enters the central nervous system.

Many newborns turn yellowish due to the bilirubin in their blood; it usually passes by itself, but when levels get too high, babies undergo phototherapy (exposure

to natural or artificial light), which reduces its concentration. If phototherapy is unsuccessful, most of the baby's blood supply can be exchanged to save its life.

Although most newborn jaundice is not due to kernicterus, it must be dealt with swiftly when it is.

Blood tests can be done to determine whether a baby has the potentially deadly gene combination; the infant can then be treated to prevent the kernicterus from occurring.

The researchers disclosed that kernicterus occurs in babies who have both Gilbert Syndrome (by itself a benign condition found in five percent of the population) and G-6-PD (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase) deficiency - both of their genetic conditions.

G-6-PD deficiency occurs in hundreds of millions of people around the world, and is usually associated with severe reactions to the eating of fava beans (*fal*), taking certain drugs (such as sulphonamides) and contact with chemicals (such as naphthalene). If such people avoid the triggers, they can lead normal lives.

## PM: Ad campaign 'politicizes' IDF

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday denounced the campaign against him mounted by reserve members of the elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit, in which he served in the 1970s.

In ads published in Hebrew newspapers yesterday, members of the unit criticized the remarks the premier made about Left to Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri last week. They said he had forgotten his comrades-in-arms, many of whom identify with the Left, and the ideals for which the unit stands.

"The purpose of [their ad] is to draw IDF units into part of the public debate," Netanyahu said. "We can have our disagreements but I oppose politicization of the army."

He said he had many calls from members of the unit saying they did not agree with the campaign.

"We don't believe [Netanyahu] was in Sayeret Matkal," the ad read. "Your divisive and ugly statement [to Rabbi Kadouri] is totally opposed to the spirit of the unit and disgraces all of us. You have forgotten all we learned together."

# Maccabiah bridge victims slam failure to begin prosecutions

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

More than 15 weeks after the bridge collapse at the Maccabiah games, the Tel Aviv District Attorney's office has still not begun prosecuting anyone in the case, thus delaying the filing of insurance claims for the victims, Dr. Ron Weiser, president of the Zionist Federation of Australia, charged yesterday.

Furthermore, funds earmarked by the Prime Minister's Office to provide initial financial assistance to the victims of the tragedy - in which four athletes were killed and 62 injured - are

apparently stuck in bureaucratic red tape, according to Ehud Stein, a Tel Aviv lawyer representing the athletes and their families.

Many of the victims are still recovering from the accident; Sasha Elterman, 15, who was on the Australian tennis team, has contracted fungal meningitis, and is in serious condition.

"Nothing I can do can bring back my father, but I want to see those responsible for his death charged, and have their lives disrupted - as ours have been," said Adam Zines, whose father Warren, a member of the lawn

bowls team, was killed in the accident.

Zines, in a telephone interview from Australia, said, "I'm extremely disappointed that 15 weeks after the incident, no one has been charged, and that not one penny of these funds they're talking about has been received here in Australia yet."

"The Israeli government has to make sure that there is no cover-up because these people caused the death of four innocent people. The attitude toward Israel in Australia now is very unfavorable, and this incident has left a sour taste in the mouths of people here."

He said he had written to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu about the situation recently, asking him "why no one had been charged, and why the funds committed to be sent to the victims had not been received in Australia yet."

Zines said Netanyahu's adviser on Diaspora affairs, Bobby Brown, had replied, apologizing for the delays, and assuring him justice would be done.

However, Stein said yesterday that despite Brown's reassurances, there has been no progress.

Stein said the police investigation into the incident was completed at the end of August, and the findings passed to the Tel Aviv District Attorney's office.

"I think enough time has passed since then to file indictments, and we are very surprised and disappointed by the very slow treatment this matter is receiving," Stein said.

He said he had written to State Attorney Edna Arbel to protest the delay, but had received no official answer from her yet, although he was summoned to a meeting today with Tel Aviv District Attorney Miriam Rosenthal.

As regards the compensation, Stein said the Prime Minister's Office had promised \$500,000 to provide initial aid to the victims and their families.

"We hear it's been approved. Now they want to pass the money on through the Maccabi organization. But apparently the funds are stuck between the Finance Ministry and the Justice Ministry. We have people in the Maccabi Australia offices checking requests for assistance, but for now, there's no money."

An official in Brown's office and in the Justice Ministry said distribution of the funds is simply awaiting receipt of a list of eligible victims from the Maccabi Australia organization, which the Justice Ministry had requested.

But Stein said that while he had been told that the Justice and Finance ministries want the recipients of the funds to sign forms, "which is legitimate, since this amounts to a loan," he had not yet received them.

A Justice Ministry spokeswoman said yesterday that the criminal investigation into the matter "is still being worked on in the State Attorney's Office, but shouldn't take much longer." She blamed the delay on a backlog of cases.

"The outstanding issue now is the concern of the community for Sasha Elterman," Weiser said, "but the outstanding issue for Israel is that we want some action taken regarding who is responsible, who is culpable... People here want answers, and it's going to be impossible to file a lot of the major insurance claims until there is a culpable party to make them against."

Weiser, whose letter to the editor on the issue appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, said the incident had "damaged" the Australian relationship with Israel like nothing he's witnessed in more than 25 years of communal involvement here.

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POST

# Expert: Papon can stand trial

By GERARD BON

**BORDEAUX, France (Reuters)** — A court-appointed medical expert ruled that Maurice Papon will be fit to return on Friday to his trial for crimes against humanity in Nazi-occupied France, judicial sources said yesterday.

in court today and rule on whether the three-week-old trial, in the southwestern city of Bordeaux, should resume on Friday or only after the weekend.

absence is voluntary. The trial began on October 8 and was due to end on December 23. But successive delays due to Papon's poor health badly disrupted the schedule of testimony, causing speculation that it could extend into January.

arrest of 1,560 Jews from the Bordeaux region for deportation to death camps during the German occupation of France, when he was a senior civil servant in the pro-Nazi Vichy regime.

ceedings rather than have him held in custody in the hospital. "Papon is in control of the trial because the court released him. He decides when to come to the hearings or stay away," said lawyer Arno Klarfeld.

# Jiang's US visit raises Tibet hopes

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — As Chinese President Jiang Zemin prepared to meet President Clinton, the Dalai Lama's office urged Jiang yesterday to open a dialogue with the exiled leader to resolve the Tibetan issue.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin tries on a colonial three-cornered hat as his wife Wang Yi Ping (left) is given a hat by Mary Lou Bitzel, chairman of the board of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, during a brief welcoming ceremony at the town yesterday. (Reuters)

Pro-Tibetan activists have promised to dog the Chinese leader with demonstrations during his eight-day visit to the US. But the Dalai Lama's reaction to the visit has been muted.

Tibet. The Dalai Lama, winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, fled his Himalayan homeland during a failed Tibetan uprising in 1959, nine years after China invaded and

annexed Tibet. Since then, he has lived in India with about 110,000 other Tibetans whose families fled to escape successive Chinese crackdowns.

# Drifter allegedly infected at least 9 women with HIV in New York

By SHIRLEY E. PERLMAN

**MAYVILLE, NY** — A 20-year-old HIV-infected drifter who hung around schoolyards and neighborhood parks had sex with at least 28 teenagers and young women and infected at least nine of them with the virus, authorities said Monday.

drugs for sex in some cases, officials said. Berke said that of the 20 women, three tested positive for HIV, as well as a fourth person who apparently became infected through a secondary contact. Williams was advised by counselors at the county health department that he should tell any subsequent sex partners of his HIV status and was warned not to have unprotected sex.

At a news conference Monday, Berke said that as many as 100 people may have been exposed to the virus, which causes AIDS, through primary and secondary contact and that officials fear the suspect, Nushawn Williams, had sexual contact with other women in other areas of the state.

But over the next eight months, health officials said, six more women who tested positive for the virus named Williams as a partner. Authorities have linked at least one other HIV case to Williams through a secondary contact. "We are very concerned there's a group of individuals out there that we have not had contact with," Berke said.

Police said Williams, who has used at least nine aliases, was arrested September 22 in New York City on a drug charge and was being held at the Rikers Island prison there. Police said his sexual partners range in age from 13 to 28 and that most of them were from nearby Dunkirk and Jamestown.

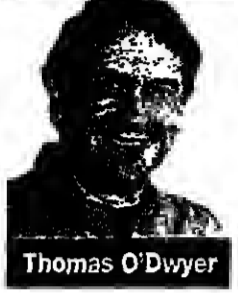
New York State Health Commissioner Barbara DeBuono said 20 epidemiologists, HIV counselors, public health physicians and health educators are being sent by the state to Chautauqua County to help handle the crisis. Law enforcement sources in New York City said the man was arrested under the name of Shytek Johnson. He has been held at Rikers Island since his arrest, said Steven Reed, a spokesman for the Bronx district attorney. (Newstoday)

# 1,000 protests bloom

To be a Westerner standing in the Chinese National Palace Museum of Taipei is to be appalled. Appalled not by the huge and splendid museum — but by one's own ignorance. It was almost amusing recently to see a bunch of supposedly intellectual, erudite European journalists suddenly turned into illiterate ignoramuses by yawning gaps of language and understanding as they stood awed before this vast display of 5,000 years of alien history. If trans-galactic aliens ever do reach this planet, they are more likely to land in central Nevada than in the central Nevada of our presumptuous popular culture.

may be a crusty old imperialist cliché, but like the racist blabbering of our grandfathers about "the yellow peril," fear of China's numbers and China's might is deeply ingrained in the Euro-American subconscious. To listen to the rantings of some of America's ignorant Christian rightists or provincial-minded Congress members against President Jiang's trip of a thousand protests, one would think Bill Clinton had invited Genghis Khan and a spare Mongol horde or two to Washington.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

There are many, many things that need to be brought to Jiang's attention — such as free markets being for free peoples, such as the idiocy of persecuting any religions, such as the not-so-small matter of political prisoners. But for heaven's sake, why can't it be done in a civilized manner?

# Marco my words

Richard Nixon's historic "Marco Polo run" to Beijing in 1972 was pragmatism at its best — or worst, depending on one's view of Cold War chicanery. It was a classic case of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" — Sovs bad, Chinese better. Whatever the multitude of China's faults, it was not only important to put them aside and get on with Beijing, it was fun — because it made the Sovs bopping mad.

# Tiger spats

Has anyone noticed how things Chinese have been creeping steadily and more frequently into our daily news? Over the last year, just look how often China's economy and squabbles with the United States over human rights or trading status, have been in the news.

Now, China has an open economy, a flourishing Hong Kong under its wing, and a vastly reduced number of dictatorial faults. Alas, there's no more Soviet threat. So the internal American battle now rages. No one is saying so openly, but many of those highly politically motivated protesters would rather see China as a threat than a partner. Then perhaps a new Nixonian would rush off and make Russia an ally?

# Russia to Iraq: Don't shun UN

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Baghdad's cooperation with the UN special commission on disarming Iraq is the only sure path toward the lifting of sanctions, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

"This is the only sure and realistic way to have the sanctions against Iraq lifted," Valery Nesterushkin told a news briefing. "Any other approach is rife with negative consequences, above all for Baghdad itself." After the adoption in the UN last week of a resolution threatening to impose more sanctions, Iraq's parliament called on the ruling Revolutionary Council to freeze relations with the UN commission. Although nine of the 15 Security Council members voted for the resolution last Thursday, five abstained: Russia, France, China, Egypt and Kenya. Nesterushkin said that even though Russia abstained, Moscow believes that Iraq should strictly adhere to the UN Security Council resolutions. Moscow long has been saying, however, that Iraqi compliance should be accompanied by the gradual easing of sanctions.

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On the agenda:

- (1) Election of two outside directors
- (2) Election of an additional director

Additional details related to the items on the agenda can be obtained from the company's registered office in Haifa Bay.

Under the articles of Association of the Company, in the event that there is no quorum present at the meeting within one hour from the time fixed for that meeting, such meeting shall be adjourned for the next day, at the same time and at the same place.

In the event that there is no quorum present at the adjourned meeting within one hour from the time fixed for that meeting, then the meeting shall take place with any number of participants attending such meeting, and such participants shall constitute a quorum.

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**Art on the move**  
A worker hangs onto an abstract painting while transporting it on the back of a motor bike through the streets of Hanoi yesterday. The Vietnamese painting market is booming in the country's capital. (AP)

# It's human rights, stupid

## Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to the US is likely to generate various agreements, but little progress on the truly sensitive issues

By DOYLE MCMANUS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin this week is likely to produce agreements on Chinese arms sales and other important issues — but not on human rights, US officials reluctantly concluded Monday.

In months of negotiations preparing for Jiang's arrival in Washington Tuesday evening, Clinton administration officials quietly urged China to take some visible steps toward defusing the human rights issue, a sore point in US-China relations since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

US aides particularly hoped that Jiang might order the release of China's two most prominent imprisoned dissidents, democracy advocate Wei Jingsheng and student leader Wang Dan.

But as the meeting approached, it became clear that Beijing would not free the two prisoners in advance and that a grand gesture during the sessions also was unlikely.

"It's almost harder to do it" during Jiang's visit, because China wants to avoid appearing to bend under US pressure, a White House official said. "Whatever they do, they will do by their own lights." Clinton still hopes that the two dissidents will be released before he makes a planned visit to China in 1998, officials said. But Clinton will

not make their freedom a condition for his trip, because that would make the larger US-China relationship "hostage" to their cases.

"If you believe in the principle that we believe in, of regular summits, you cannot hold the relationship hostage to any one issue," the White House official said.

Jiang, who arrived Monday for a day of rest in the restored colonial-era city of Williamsburg, Virginia, did make one bow to US concerns on human rights. China signed a UN covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, an agreement that commits Beijing to seek better living standards, working conditions and trade union rights for its people.

But China decided not to sign a similar UN covenant on civil rights that calls for freedom of opinion, peaceful assembly and minority rights.

The administration's disappointment in its effort to gain even modest concessions on human rights reflects a central dilemma of US policy toward China. Clinton and his aides argue that the surest way to foster such rights in China is to increase US cooperation with Beijing's authoritarian regime. But in the short run, the evidence has been mixed.

Some China scholars say that a slow process of political reform is under way. "The political

reforms have, in fact, been substantial," argued Harry Harding, a professor at George Washington University who has advised the administration.

But the State Department reports that China has intensified its repression of both political dissidents and Christian religious groups.

Harding acknowledged, "The present political elite places very serious limits...on political reform." In the long run, he added, significant political change may have to wait for a new generation to come to power in Beijing.

This mixed picture is a domestic political embarrassment for both Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, given that they campaigned for the White House in 1992 demanding a tough US stance toward China on human rights. Clinton threatened to revoke China's "most favored nation" trade status if Beijing did not respond to US demands on human rights. But, under pressure from the American business community, he changed his mind in 1993.

That decision deprived the administration of a major weapon in human rights disputes and prompted US officials to devise their current strategy, which rests on convincing the Chinese that political liberalization is in their own interest.

When Clinton meets with Jiang this week, aides said, he will give the Chinese leader a one-on-one version of the argument he made in a speech last week: "Greater openness is profoundly in China's own interest. If wel-

comed, it will speed economic growth, enhance the world influence of China and stabilize society." So far, China's Communist leaders have rejected most of that message, opting instead to cement their party's hold on power.

As a result, Clinton has come under criticism from an unusual coalition of liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans, from House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt (Missouri) and Representative Nancy Pelosi (Democrat-California), to Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms (Republican-North Carolina) and Representative Christopher Cox (Republican-California).

"We have to be clear that a condition of having a normal trading relationship with us is progress on the human rights front," Gephardt, who may run against Gore for the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination, said in an interview. "There has to be constant unending pressure from us for change." The issue has divided marketeers, those who put their faith in more trade, from moralists, those in both parties who put human rights first.

As the administration pursues both tracks, officials concede that may mean waiting for the long run.

"Commercial diplomacy is not an adequate human rights policy," said Clinton national security adviser Samuel Berger. "We also have to stand up for the values that we believe in...even if progress from that is dreadfully slow." (The Los Angeles Times)

# California mother accused of killing her four sons

By TONY PERRY

SAN MARCOS, California — A 33-year-old mother stands accused of murdering her four sons in a grisly scene that shocked even Sheriff's deputies who have grown accustomed to violence.

"It was horrible," said Deputy Brian Perry, one of the first deputies at the bloody scene.

Susan Diane Eubanks, whose life was beset with marital problems, debts and violence from her estranged husband, may be arraigned Tuesday in her hospital bed where she is recuperating from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the abdomen, officials said.

The case began to unfold Sunday afternoon when sheriff's deputies were called to a rented home in a working-class section of this rural community 40 miles north of San Diego to mediate a dispute between Eubanks and her new boyfriend.

Several hours later, deputies were alerted by Eubanks' estranged husband that something may have gone dreadfully wrong at the family home. They forced their way into the two-bedroom home, sitting on a lot populated by chickens, dogs and horses. Deputies were shocked at what they found inside.

Three of Eubanks' sons — ages 6, 7 and 14 — were found dead from gunshot wounds to the head, apparently inflicted by their distraught mother. A fourth son was clinging to life. And Eubanks was in a back bedroom, her bleeding body beside a .38-caliber pistol.

Officials said they found no suicide notes or illegal drugs in the home and no indication that the boys had sought to flee. Still, they are convinced the incident was an intended murder-suicide, with no other suspects than Eubanks.

"We know what happened, we just don't know why," said Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Wood. Found dead inside the home from gunshot inflicted at close range were Austin Eubanks, 7, Brigham Eubanks, 6, and Brandon Armstrong, 14.

Matthew Eubanks, 4, was taken by helicopter to Children's Hospital in San Diego where he was immediately placed on life support systems.

He died at 4:30 p.m., shortly after his father arrived at the hospital. The child's organs may be used for transplant, hospital officials said. A fifth child in the home, a 5-year-old nephew of the slain boys, was not injured.

Eubanks' trouble-filled life was seemingly spinning out of control in recent weeks.

Eubanks had gone to court last month seeking to escape from a marriage filled with allegations that her husband physically abused her, threatened to kill her and was given to alcoholic rages.

Eubanks pleaded with the judge to keep her husband away from her and their sons.

Like many a woman newly separated from her husband, Eubanks immediately had severe money problems, including \$40,000 owed on her credit cards.

But last week she was ordered by a separate court to pay \$341 a month to support a 14-year-old son from a previous marriage.

And then on Sunday afternoon, a new relationship that Eubanks had hoped would provide stability for herself and her sons crumbled as she and her new boyfriend quarreled and he gathered up his belongings.

Eubanks had recently filed for divorce from her husband of nine years, Eric Dale Eubanks, 37, a cabinetmaker and football coach. She cited his continued erratic behavior, drinking and physical threats.

Susan Eubanks also had an apparent drinking problem. She was convicted of drunk driving in 1996 after nearly ramming a sheriff's car at 2 a.m. A blood test had shown that she had more than twice the legal limit of alcohol in her system.

Eubanks had alleged that her husband accused her of infidelity, threatened to kill her and suggested that she kill herself. Eric Eubanks was convicted in June of misdemeanor (spousal battery) last summer after a scuffle at the home.

He was given probation on the condition he undergo domestic violence and alcoholism counseling. Court documents indicate he refused to attend the alcoholism counseling and insisted to counselors that he did not have a drinking problem. An arrest warrant was issued for him after he refused to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

"There was always trouble up there," said a neighbor. Neighbors remembered the family as keeping their distance and declining to socialize.

Sheriff's deputies, who had made frequent trips to the house, responded to a call Sunday from Eric Eubanks, who had received an ominous "farewell" message on his pager. Surrounding the rented home, deputies heard Susan Eubanks calling for help.

Deputies forced their way into the home and found two of the boys in a bedroom and two others in the living room. Eubanks was found in a second bedroom.

Eric Eubanks and his estranged wife's boyfriend, whose name was not released, had apparently gone to a bar to "cool off" after an argument between Susan Eubanks and the boyfriend, officials said.

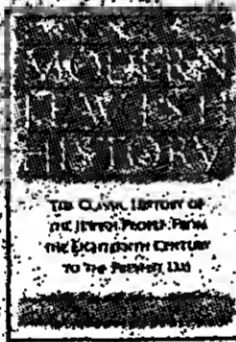
Neither man is considered a suspect. (The Los Angeles Times)

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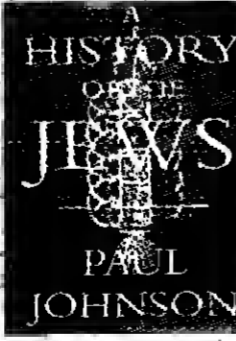
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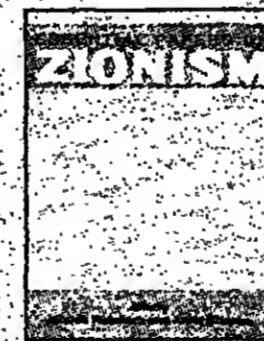
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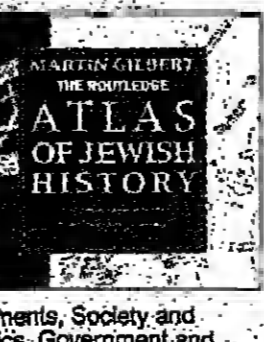
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مكتبة القدس

# Are 15 years of a bull market over?

### Experts are divided as to whether Wall Street's nosedive will scare away the small investor, the force behind climbing stock prices.

By BRETT D. FROMSON and ALBERT B. CRENSHAW

Washington — Despite the closing of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday for the first time since 1929 because of a market drop, professional investors, traders and analysts said it remained unclear whether the great bull market that began in August 1982 is over.

Much of the remarkable climb in stock values over the last 15 years has been propelled by individuals who had not owned stocks before, but who have invested in the markets through retirement plans and mutual funds.

If those small investors are scared away by Monday's stomach-churning free-fall, some experts said, then the end of the bull market is in sight. "On Wall Street, there was panic today," said Jean-Marie Evallard, portfolio manager of Sogen International, a global mutual fund based in New York.

Optimists also note that the US economy remains healthy overall, and they point to indications that small investors did not flee Monday. "The market has been in a correction phase for three weeks," said Alfred Goldman, director of market analysis at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. in St. Louis.

ket, some said, will be determined by how small investors react in coming days.

"Today was definitely a dent in market psychology," said Jay Finkle, chief stock trader for Loews Corp., a New York insurance, hotel and cigarette conglomerate that invests in the financial markets.

More pessimistic was Mark Holowesko, chief investment officer for Templeton Worldwide. "I think the panic will spread to the retail investor," he said.

But others said that Monday's events probably did not signal the end, and some mutual-fund managers reported that as many individual investors were buying as were selling stocks.

"This was a long-overdue correction in a market that was too hot, out of the beginning of a bear market," said Michael Steinhardt, a recently retired stock market speculator.

Stephen Leeb, author and newsletter publisher, agreed and said, "Bull markets don't end with interest rates falling and the economy growing, which we have now. There's no case of that, going back to 1929."

"We are in the midst of a Pacific Rim crisis, which in the past has been good for US financial markets," said Nancy Lazar, an economist at International Strategy & Investment, a money management firm in New York, referring to the economic turmoil in Asia that has shaken financial markets world-

wide. "If stocks are to rally as they have in past years of the bull advance, new money must flow into the market. There were conflicting signs Monday about the outlook for new inflows."

"Money has not been flowing in quickly enough to sop up the huge surge in new stock offerings," said Charles Bideman, head of Market Trim Tabs, a firm that tracks the flow of money in and out of the market.

Loews trader Jay Finkle said, "You break the back of a bull market when you see money flow out. One worrisome sign to me is that most of the big blocks of stock I saw offered for sale came at the end of the day. That could signal sales from mutual funds in advance of expected redemptions."

The big mutual fund operator T. Rowe Price Associates Inc. in Baltimore experienced a surge in telephone calls from investors as the day wore on. Early in the day, buyers and sellers were roughly balanced, but as the day wore on buyers began to predominate, said Steven E. Norwitz, chief spokesman for the company.

Norwitz also noted that most callers weren't interested in the firm's opinion about the market. They evidently had made up their minds one way or the other before calling.

The firm itself is viewing the plunge as a buying opportunity, he added. "Market breaks this sharp don't last that long. Our view is, this has been a panic reaction" and probably will be short-lived, he said.

Price fund managers were buying, and some were "bemoaning not having more cash." The experience at the Vanguard Group of mutual funds was similar, spokesman Brian Matz said. Among callers, "for every one who is considering moving toward bonds, there is someone who views these events as a buying opportunity. There's a bull and bear rug of war going on now" with investors, he said.



Monday's stomach-churning free-fall sent Wall Street into a panic and a rare early closing.

(AP)

comment on such speculation Monday. But investors did just what speculation supposedly was based on Monday, and bond futures surged. James Bianco, director of research at Arbor Research & Trading Inc., based outside Chicago, said that international financier George Soros had bought \$10 billion worth of bonds in recent weeks, and that he sold 10-15 percent of them when bonds rallied Monday.

If that is the case, Bianco said, it could be bullish for stocks. "I think a lot of speculators like Soros are waiting for the public to fly into bonds, at which point the smart money will get back into stocks, and the market could stabilize," Bianco said.

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## Main Street still far from Wall Street

By TIM SHANKS

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Black Monday...  
Black Monday...

Some investors were quick to search for detailed information...  
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## DOW

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu described the current situation as an "economic revolution" and called Israel's economic situation better than that of many European countries.

In particular, he cited success in high-tech and software, saying the "potential is incredible and the international community understands that." He said Israel is found "at the top of the preferred list by foreign investors. We are in the right direction and our management is right."

He repeated his plans for large-scale privatization as the basis for economic growth and said economic gaps can not be reduced by centralization of power. "Our challenge is to find the level of freedom for economic growth," he said.

Netanyahu said everything would be done in the budget not to harm the weaker strata but - in a rebuke to the Labor government - described the budget currently being discussed as a "rectification on a rectification." He said the government had inherited a weak economy which needed a drastic budget like last year's to get it back on track and another, less drastic one, to keep it on course.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman urged investors not to panic. "I just want to tell all of the public to calculate their steps well, not to get caught in a panic, to see what happened in the past, who profits from all of these rises and falls," he told Israel Radio.

The world's trading day began in Hong Kong, where stocks crashed to their biggest point loss ever. The Hang Seng Index closed at 9059.89, down 1438.31 points, or 13.70%.

In New York, after three days of heavy losses, including Monday's

554-point drop, investors returned to the stock market with a hunger for enduring big-name companies. The gain beats the market's previous one-day record of 257.36 set on September 2.

IBM sparked the rebound by announcing it would buy up to \$3.5 billion worth of its own stock. The news gave the market a dose of inspiration and made IBM the biggest gainer among the 30 Dow stocks.

As soon as the closing bells started ringing through the cavernous New York Stock Exchange, traders erupted into cheers and threw trading tickets into the air. It was the second celebration in an hour on the floor. Earlier, traders chanted "Go, Go, Go" as volume neared 1 billion shares and broke into cheers once the milestone was reached. The previous record had been set Monday at 685.5 million shares.

The Dow had gotten off to a rocky start, falling as much as 178 points and dipping below 7,000 for the first time since early May. The market's most widely followed gauge rose to a 354 point gain in the final hour before trailing off modestly to its closing level.

The early selling was blamed on traders who had been shut out by the market's early close on Monday, but sought to get their business done first thing this morning. Once those pent-up sell orders were cleared and IBM announced its big stock purchase, the Dow started on a steady climb upward.

Traders who had arrived with grim faces cheered as the prices went upward. "I'm smiling because I still have a job," joked Michael Galluchi, who works for the trading firm LaBranche Co.

Bargain hunters were so busy buying in some areas that one trading supervisor yelled: "Now everybody just calm down!"

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## Picking the right fight

The shenanigans accompanying the opening of the Knesset's winter session may have made for good television footage, but they are a bad omen for the prospects of better times ahead. It is unfortunate, if natural, that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's missteps have led the opposition to become more shrill and combative. But Netanyahu's penchant for blaming the opposition for his troubles only deepens the hole that he has dug much of for himself.

Labor MKs gleefully greeted Netanyahu's opening speech with catcalls and signs saying "I am a proud Jew," thereby making another day's hay from his crass whisperings to Rabbi Kadouri. Netanyahu had last week, not knowing he was being recorded, told Kadouri that "the Left has forgotten what it means to be Jews." In his Knesset speech, Netanyahu gave a weak apology of the "if I inadvertently offended anyone" variety, while once again repeating the underlying divisive charge: the Left, by agreeing to Oslo, violated a hitherto unknown principle of Zionism that Israel must retain sole responsibility for its own security.

Why Netanyahu would dig up such a charge after a year and a half of slavishly, if grudgingly, following the Oslo Accords himself, is a mystery. Every time Netanyahu launches another anti-Oslo arrow at his already powerless predecessors, he simultaneously weakens himself by reducing the credibility of his commitment to the peace process. At the same time, he gratuitously poisons the atmosphere with the opposition, which again hurts him by making any sort of cooperation almost impossible.

The Mashaal fiasco and cynical comments to Kadouri have emboldened the opposition, leading Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to devote most of his speech to personal attacks on Netanyahu and attempts to separate coalition members from their stumble-prone leader. The widespread dissatisfaction within the coalition is at once the opposition's Exhibit A regarding the prime minister's shortcomings and their sole ticket to power — all realize that the government can only be brought down from within.

Whether it is a function of the power that the new electoral system concentrates in his hands or his personal style, Netanyahu's isolation to his own cabinet was also evident at the Knesset session. Some defended him against the opposition's worst excesses, but their defense of the

substance of his most recent foibles has been weak to non-existent.

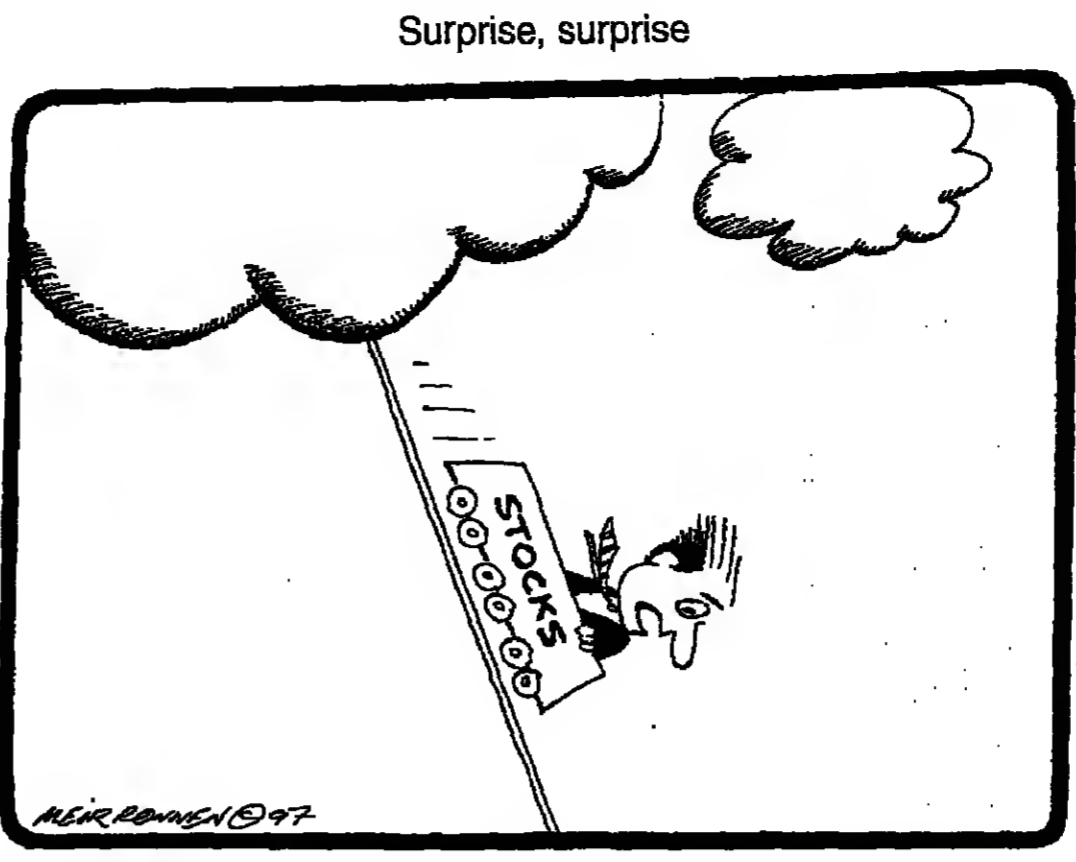
In the face of such hard times, Netanyahu is not surprisingly having some trouble getting his message across, or more to the point, getting people to believe him. The message per se is not a bad one: on the diplomatic front, proceed to accelerated final status talks as soon as possible; on the economic front, accelerate the pace of privatization and economic reform, while holding the line on government spending.

For all the vitriol, much of it understandable, directed at Netanyahu, it is hard to see what objection the opposition has to the core of his declared agenda. Even on the issue of settlements, it is clear that Netanyahu is at this point willing to agree to limit growth to about what occurred under the government of Yitzhak Rabin.

Though his rhetorical pandering to the far-right has disguised it, Netanyahu has brought the center-right within Israel close to where the center-left has been for a long time. Netanyahu has an opportunity to follow the politically successful paths of President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair, who have run circles around their opponents by consistently reaching across the broad center. Instead, he has stranded himself in the worst of both worlds by following and attacking Oslo at the same time, leading neither side to trust or understand his true direction.

The key to both Clinton's and Blair's success has been their ability, at critical points, to distance themselves from their own left flanks. Barak is wisely taking a page from their book in his own deliberate attempts to distance himself from Meretz's perceived anti-religious bent. Only Netanyahu, supposedly a consummate politician, has never been seen to deliberately separate himself from the far-right, though his de facto fidelity to Oslo has strongly disillusioned them.

Politicians are defined by the fights they pick. So far, most of the fights Netanyahu has picked have been with the Left, meaning that he is constantly fighting the opposition, the Palestinians, and the Americans simultaneously. The only way Netanyahu will succeed in capturing the center is if he picks a fight with his Right, in a way that the opposition is forced to join him. The alternative is to continue to sit in a hole, and watch it grow deeper and deeper.



## Missiles as a Trojan horse

Russian Foreign Minister Dr. Yevgeny Primakov was still *Pravda's* correspondent in Cairo when foreign minister Andrei Gromyko faced president Kennedy in the White House and said the USSR had not sent offensive weapons to Cuba. Kennedy did not accept Gromyko's claim, because he had aerial photographs of the deployment of the Soviet missiles in the US's backyard.

Later, due to the US blockade of Cuba, negotiations began between the US and the USSR and the missiles were removed. Gromyko explained afterwards that he hadn't known about the missiles and no one in the American administration ruled him out as a partner for dialogue with the US — despite his having been caught in an untruth. With his extensive knowledge of his country's diplomatic history, Primakov must have learnt the lessons of this incident.

Primakov knows that Israel has conclusive proof of the technological aid provided to Iran by Russian companies and scientists for the construction of long-range missiles. Nevertheless, he once again denied in Jerusalem this week that his government is aiding Iran in the construction of weapons of mass destruction, without being caught in an untruth. His denial was carefully phrased, as he walked the tightrope between Russian companies and the government of the Russian Federation.

If the claims of Russian aid to Teheran were completely unfounded, why did Vice President Al Gore feel the need to discuss the subject with the Russians? Why has President Clinton's special envoy Frank Wisner again flown to Moscow for discussions with the Russians responsible for missile development? And why don't the Russians refuse to discuss the subject with Israel, even after President Yeltsin and his foreign minister have repeatedly explained that the government of the Russian Federation is not involved with missile construction in Iran?

The right place to look for the

answer to these questions is the gains that Russia has already made from the commotion raised by Israel. Although there is pressure in the US Congress to make the continuation of American economic aid to Russia conditional on an end to Russia's aid to Iran, the initiative in Congress will be

**MOSHE ZAK**

Iran's armament assisted Primakov in his drive to regain a foothold in the Arab-Israeli negotiations

economic aid to Russia will rouse President Clinton to veto such legislation. Clinton will have to stand by Russia, and this will be a net gain for Russia.

Furthermore, since the Madrid conference, which was convened under joint US and USSR auspices, Russia has been squeezed out of all active roles in the diplomatic process in the Middle East. The US was not overjoyed to include Russia even in the negotiations with Syria.

Russia was not involved at all in the Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and only when everything was ready were they invited to send a representative to the treaty-signing ceremonies.

AS early as 1970, under the Soviet regime, Primakov was actually the first to suggest the convening of an Israeli-Arab summit under joint Russian-American auspices. This was a sophisticated expression of Russia's traditional trend towards parity with the US in the Middle East. In the post-Soviet administration, Primakov has no intention of changing his country's traditional objectives. He is only looking for new expressions of his policy and alternative bridges to cross the gaps created by the change of regime in Moscow.

In fact, the Iranian missile program, despite Primakov's denial of his government's involvement, constitutes a Russian Trojan horse in regaining its lost foothold in the Israeli-Arab negotiations. The alarm on the Russian participation assisted the Russian minister in developing a dialogue with Israel and the US, and indirectly granted him American and Israeli recognition of Russia's status in the region. He is convinced that the fuss about the Russian missiles in Iran has emphasized that there can be no complete settlement in the Middle East without Russia. This is why he has suggested himself as a mediator between Israel and Syria, believing that the US is not active in this sphere.

This is why he both suggested in his talks in Jerusalem that Russia should also participate in the monitoring committee established after Operation Grapes of Wrath, and expressed willingness to come to Washington to join Madeleine Albright at the meeting between David Levy and Abu Mazen, for which a date has not yet been fixed.

All these suggestions have one and the same objective: to extend Russia's political foothold in the Middle East. But we should avoid the error of forgetting that the suggested Russian mediation between Jerusalem and Damascus is based on two presuppositions. First, the rearmament of the Syrian army with modern Russian arms, in order to increase Russian influence in Damascus, "an important influence for the peace effort, and second, unconditional support for Syria's territorial demands, which involve Israeli recognition of the territories occupied by Syria beyond the international border.

These two presuppositions in Primakov's policies do not encourage Israel to assist Russia in its attempts to ensure its own status in the Middle East. All the more so when Russia is pressuring Israel by remote control by arming Iran and Syria.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

## The abuse excuse

**RUTHIE BLUM**

To extradite or not to extradite: that was the question. Whether 17-year-old Samuel would be tried for the satanic slaying of 19-year-old Alfred Tello in his native United States, or in his father's native Israel.

In a ploy to prevent his son from being tried as an adult in Maryland — a state in which the death penalty remains on the books — Samuel's father helped the youth abscond to the Land of Milk and Honey. A land where 17-year-olds are considered minors by the courts. Even if they hack other teenagers to pieces, and burn their carcasses to an unrecognizable char.

What a ploy! But then, Samuel's father couldn't have made it big in the Big World if he weren't well-versed in the workings of criminal justice and extradition. Being a lawyer, and all. And what a parent! But then, what Israeli doesn't appreciate the lengths to which Jewish parents will go to protect their offspring — including when such lengths put a pall on international relations?

But now that Israel's Justice and Interior ministries have finally figured out a way to boot this dubious refugee back from whence he came (pending an appeal, of course), Samuel's father may be regretting his manipulative maneuver on two counts. The first is his apparent miscalculation of the degree of compassion with which his son's "blood" claim to Israeli citizenship would be received. The second is his miscalculation of the leniency of Israeli criminal justice relative to that of the US. If so, he must by now also be rueing his public display of parental loyalty through this "risky" pre-trial ordeal.

True, in Israel, defendant Samuel would be tried as a minor. As such, he would be guaranteed a trial behind closed doors, and the chance to remain among the

**Had Samuel's father been more in tune to trend, he might have exhibited more cruelty towards the lad than concern**

living, even if found guilty. True, too, Israel's current extradition law was born out of concern that Israeli citizens who commit crimes abroad may not be given fair trials in the Diaspora.

But, what Samuel's father neglected to consider before whisking his son across the ocean was the growing trend in the United States to relieve criminals of personal responsibility for their behavior.

Relying on what renowned legal expert Alan Dershowitz coins the "abuse excuse," defense attorneys throughout the US are applying their legal skill not to proving the innocence of their clients — many of whom confess to their crimes at the outset — but rather to proving that trauma suffered by these clients is the real culprit behind their crimes. Such "trauma" comes in all forms: parental, spousal or other abuse; post-rap syndrome, post-partum or pre-menstrual depression; racial or other types of victimization; and even "road rage."

When Lorena Bobbitt sliced off the penis of her sleeping spouse, she was "excused" because she had been a victim of repeated abuse by him. As a result of this abuse, the jury deemed, Mrs. Bobbitt was not responsible at the time of the snipping.

When Lyle and Eric Menendez executed their mother and father, the jury was hung over the question of whether the abuse the boys had endured from their parents constituted enough of an excuse. A worrisome number of other examples abound.

Had Samuel's father been more in tune to trend, he would have played this hand differently. For one thing, he might have stayed put with his son in the US. For another, he might have exhibited more cruelty towards the lad than concern. Such a display undoubtedly would have been of great potential advantage to Samuel, once in the throes of the American criminal justice system. Undoubtedly, too, Samuel's defense attorney will opt for some version of the abuse excuse. Only now he may have no recourse but to go after the defendant's mother.

This is a case of the cynical exploitation of the spirit of the Israeli laws (Return and Extradition) so as to benefit from the letter of these laws.

If either law is amended in the near future, we will have Samuel's father to thank. And if the decision to extradite Samuel is upheld, he and his father may have us to thank for the "excuse" to return to Maryland for trial.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**RELIGIOUS GUARANTEES**

Sir, — True to his form as an arch-conservative, William F. Buckley Jr. would like to see more government support of religion in America as he states in his article "Religion in Russia" (October 7). American Jews have always looked to the provisions in the American Constitution about the separation of the state from religion as the strongest guarantee that they will be free from any religious pressures on them.

Buckley ridicules these guarantees. He says that the Congress "in Washington sits idle while the US Supreme Court does much more to forbid religion than is contemplated in Russia." In other words, in Russia they will "permit religious activity in the schools." He would like to see this also in America — religious activity in the schools. So that little Jewish boys and girls will have to listen to Christian prayers. He also has a strange notion of

the religious situation in Israel. He says that the slight restrictions on religious activity in Russia "do not come close to the liabilities on Christianity imposed in Israel." What liabilities is he talking about? He should know by now that Christians in Israel can practice their religion unmolested.

DAVID TISHLER  
Tel Aviv.

**SAME FATE AND DESTINY**

Sir, — Ideologically, theological and philosophically I do not agree with the religious principles and practices of the Reform and Conservative movements in Judaism.

I am, however, very much alarmed at the silence of the chief rabbis, the religious establishment and of the Orthodox Knesset members regarding the recent wave of violence and vandalism directed towards the other streams

of religious life. In the past few weeks violent acts were perpetrated upon a Reform children's kindergarten in Mevasseret Zion, a Reform congregation in Jerusalem and the Conservative congregation in Kfar Sava.

By not protesting the violence, the Orthodox community has indicated its approval of *sinat chinam* (hate between brothers) and forgotten the cardinal doctrine which is *tolmidei chachomin marbin*

and *tolitot* with happiness on their faces, would recreate the mood of Yom Kippur. A not so "Jewishly" knowledgeable reader might think Yom Kippur is a bike-riding holiday based on the photo.

RABBI YITZHACK RUBIN  
Jerusalem.

**YOM KIPPUR BIKES**

Sir, — Once again, your paper on the day following Yom Kippur showed a picture of young bicycle riders as the photograph of the holiday "MDA treats 1,456 on Yom Kippur" (October 12).

Street bike riders exist on the holy day only due to the fact that even main streets are devoid of cars on Yom Kippur. That is, bike

riding is the exception. Keeping the sanctity of Yom Kippur is the rule.

The Jerusalem Post should try to properly capture the true flavor of the Day of Atonement in Israel. A photograph can be taken after Yom Kippur ends, so as not to violate the sanctity of the day. Seeing pure worshippers outside synagogue in their white *kittels*

and *talitot* with happiness on their faces, would recreate the mood of Yom Kippur. A not so "Jewishly" knowledgeable reader might think Yom Kippur is a bike-riding holiday based on the photo.

KALMAN FEDER  
Nof Aylon.

**FROM OUR ARCHIVES**

60 years ago: On October 29, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that an appeal to Palestine Jewry, similar in nature to that issued by the chief rabbis, had been made by the National Council of Palestine Jews (Va'ad Leumi) urging the Yishuv to "control its feelings and maintain national discipline" as was the case throughout the period of disturbances in the country during 1936.

50 years ago: On October 29,

1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the fate of Nahariya and other Jewish settlements in Galilee would be settled by the UN group which was expected to fix borders.

25 years ago: On October 29, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that an American tourist, Dennis Feinstein, was detained in connection with letter bombs addressed to President Nixon and his secretaries of state and defense which were defused at Kiryat Shmona post office. "There is no organized crime in Israel," the new Tel Aviv Police Commander, David Ofer, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The proposal to enlarge the Knesset from 120 to 150 members appeared to have won a majority support in the House. The idea of raising the percentage of votes needed to get a list into the Knesset seemed to enjoy less backing.

Alexander Zvielli

## Blind loyalty

**PATRICK GOODENOUGH**

On August 19, 1996, South African President Nelson Mandela was due to arrive on a long-awaited visit to Israel. The trip was postponed because — we were told — of Mandela's poor health.

Since then, however, Mandela has traveled to most corners of the globe, addressing international gatherings and conducting full state visits to Britain and Indonesia. This week he visited Israel's neighbor, Egypt, before heading for a highly controversial visit to Libya. It's hard to believe any longer that Mandela is not staying away for political reasons.

The reactions of Mandela and his foreign minister, Alfred Nzo, to US opposition to the visit suggest that these two old men are woefully out of touch with late 20th century reality. Mandela accused Washington of arrogance for dictating "where we should go or who our friends should be."

Nzo called for an end to UN sanctions against Libya.

A South African newspaper, the *Mail & Guardian*, published letters on its Internet edition from Libyan exiles, deploring Mandela's decision to visit.

One wrote: "I simply cannot believe that it is too much to ask of you what you have asked the world to do in the recent past: boycott tyranny and oppression. Another called the visit "an insult to Libyan martyrs who have been hanged publicly by [Muammar] Gaddafi and left to rot in public squares for days; to the families of Libyans whose bodies were dug up by his thugs and thrown to the sea for oppressing him during their life; and to the thousands of Libyans who are still in the jails of

last year.

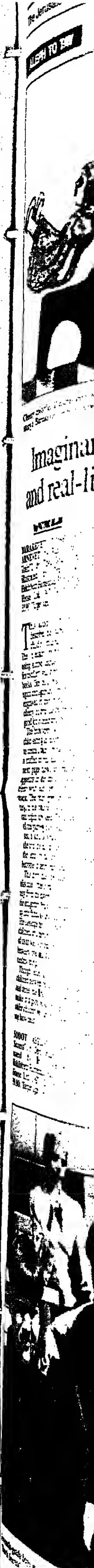
Yet Iran's attempts to buy nuclear know-how from China, North Korea and former Soviet republics have triggered alarms among intelligence services around the world. In light of this, Botha's insistence in response to my queries that "under no circumstances will South Africa become involved in any form of cooperation in violation of its obligations and responsibilities in terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" sounded naive, if not downright untrue.

If Mandela is unaware of the involvement in terrorism of Tripoli and Teheran, he is clearly not being properly advised by Nzo.

When it comes to Arafat, one wonders what Mandela sees in a man who has a history of personal responsibility for terrorism, and who now oversees a security force which kidnaps, tortures and kills opponents in the areas under his authority. At a time when South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hearing gruesome evidence of "dirty tricks" activities carried out by operatives of the apartheid state, doesn't it strike Mandela as ironic that his government's foreign policy transforms the perpetrators of similar crimes into diplomatic and trading partners?

Should he ever decide indeed to visit Israel, Mandela will have to bear in mind that, by legitimizing the tyrants in Tripoli, Gaza and Teheran, he has relinquished any right to advise Israelis on matters which could affect the very survival of the Jewish state.

The writer is a South African journalist, currently working at the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem.





ALEPH TO TAV



Cheery, colorful illustrations do a good job of enhancing the story of Barakevet Yoshevet Arnevet ('A Rabbit on a Train').

Imaginary trains and real-life secrets

By RUTHIE BLUM
BARAKEVET YOSHEVET ARNEVET ('A Rabbit on a Train'), by Tova Schonberg, illustrated by Ora Ayal. Hakibbutz Hameuhad Publishing House, Ltd. 1997. 24 pp. NIS 35.90. Target age: 1-3.

Dudi has a secret: his parents are recently divorced, and he lives with his father in a fancy villa. He is also fat and unpopular. Aviv, the class troublemaker and the bane of Dudi's existence, also has a secret: he still sucks his thumb at the ripe old age of 12. Yoav, a bright, quiet boy who lives in a poor neighborhood, has his own secret: his father is serving a jail sentence for attempting to rob a bank with a toy pistol.

This author's first book describes the journey of a child's imaginary train. The pleasant rhyme-scheme, using simple language, is ideal for toddlers who insist on having books like these read to them again and again until the texts are engraved in their memory. The cheery, colorful illustrations do a good job of enhancing the story.

The book opens with a young child setting up chairs in a line, to create a train. On each chair is a stuffed animal and a doll. The next page shows the train as it appears in the child's imagination: with cars of various shapes and sizes, and a locomotive that is a toy train set.

SODOT AFEILIM ('Dark Secrets'), by Dirit Orgad; illustrated by David Kedem. Hakibbutz Hamuhad Publishing House Ltd. 1997. 120 pp. NIS 39.90. Target age: 10-13.



Seventh-grade boys with secrets are the heroes of Sodot Afeilim ('Dark Secrets').

Putting surgery on the map

By ROBERT A. ROSENBLATT

What is most likely to determine whether Americans have surgery? Geography, believe it or not.

Doctors do lots of coronary bypass surgery in Alabama, Arkansas and Michigan.

Mastectomy rates are highest in the Midwest. Knee replacement surgery is very popular in the upper Midwest and the Rocky Mountain region.

And back surgery is a booming business in California, the Northwest and the Rocky Mountain area, along with the Carolinas and parts of Florida and Texas.

An enduring mystery of medicine - why rates vary so much - is dramatically illustrated by the new Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, a massive study of hospital spending and surgery among the nation's Medicare population.

The amount of care consumed by Americans is highly dependent on where they live - on the capacity of the health care system where they live, and on the practice styles of local physicians, the Atlas reported.

The Atlas' message is also that medicine is as much an art as a science, an art that demands aggressive and informed patients joining doctors in the decision-making process.

Where the science is clear, the treatments don't vary. A hip fracture can be treated only with hospitalization. But many other conditions are "high variation." In their use of surgical remedies doctors - and their patients - have many choices.

A woman with breast cancer, for example, can have a mastectomy or a lumpectomy. A man with prostate cancer can undergo surgery for complete removal of

Geography determines the likelihood of spending time in an intensive care unit in the last six months of life

the prostate, or can opt for "watchful waiting" for this slow-growing cancer.

A person who has coronary artery disease, which causes chest pain or shortness of breath, can choose a bypass graft to relieve the symptoms. Or doctor and patient may agree that a change in diet, some exercise and medicines are sufficient to deal with the problem.

Instead of a national system of health care, with scientific standards for surgery, there is a hodgepodge of markets.

More hospital beds, more surgeons and specialists in the community mean more surgery. Some medical schools train their graduates to be more aggressive in recommending and performing surgeries. Some hospitals have influential chiefs of staff, revered and respected by younger doctors, who are strong advocates of surgery. All these answers are guesses, incomplete



Nobody knows what the rate of surgery should be.

(Camera Press)

explanations for the mystery.

Nobody knows what the rate of surgery should be. "There is no right treatment for a population - no single correct rate of surgery - any more than there is a right number of pairs of shoes for the American public to own," said Dr. John E. Wennberg of the Dartmouth Medical School, who directed the Atlas project.

Medicare data was used because the massive government health program gathers detailed information from doctors and hospitals on every hospital visit by a Medicare enrollee.

There are standard reporting forms, unlike the disparate information systems used by insurance companies and health maintenance organizations serving the under-65 population.

But experts believe the great variations in surgical treatments also exist for the general population, in addition to the 38 million Medicare beneficiaries (those

older than 65 and the disabled of all ages.) "What rate [of surgery] is right for you?" was the rhetorical question from Dr. Jonathan T. Lord, chief operating officer of the American Hospital Association, which issued the Atlas in cooperation with Dartmouth's Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences.

"For each of us, [the degree of] fear and concern will be different," he said. "What is the evidence that surgery produces beneficial outcomes? That it extends life?" For most procedures, there is no hard evidence that surgery is superior to other methods of treatment.

With managed-care pressures to hold down costs, especially in California, surgical rates will drop quickly in coming years, predicts Dr. Jack Lewin, chief executive officer of the California Medical Association.

"There will be fewer elective procedures," Lewin said. "We will say to people, 'You can make it with physical ther-

apy and exercise rather than having the knee replaced.' On back surgery, we will use exercise or yoga or other things," he said.

The country needs "quality of life studies," which follow patients for years after their medical and surgical treatments, he said. "We may be doing surgery when less invasive procedures work just as well." Meanwhile, without the scientific basis, the decisions are made on other grounds, such as community pressures and preferences.

"If you live in Beverly Hills, a woman aged 50 may be preparing routinely for her second face lift," Lewin said. There is a high concentration of plastic surgeons in the area and "a community expectation that one is supposed to have a face lift at age 50," he said.

Bend, Oregon, has one of the highest rates of back surgery in the country, according to Dr. Bruce Spurlock of the California Healthcare Association. "What is different about Bend?" he wondered. "Did the bad backs draw all the surgeons there, or were the surgeons aggressive in terms of treating back pain with surgery?" Within the healing professions there is "broad uncertainty about the appropriate care of back pain," he noted.

In Bend, back surgery is performed on 76 of 10,000 Medicare enrollees, a surprisingly high figure compared with the US average of 29.

The Dartmouth Atlas "raises more questions than it answers," by displaying the sharp variations that cry out for a rational explanation that isn't there, said Spurlock.

The Atlas patterns of variation aren't limited to the volumes of individual types of surgery. Spending in the last six months of life also varies without coherent explanation. Medicare outlays were as high as \$14,212 in Miami and as low as

There is no right treatment, no correct rate of surgery - any more than there is a right number of pairs of shoes for the public to own

\$6,793 in Portland, Ore. Geography also determines the likelihood of spending time in an intensive care unit in the last six months of life. The chances are greatest for those who live in Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston, and lowest for residents of Milwaukee, Seattle and Minneapolis.

The Atlas, helped by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, should be more than a guide to medical mysteries. Instead, it should "help people become better health managers," said Lord of the American Hospital Association.

Patients should be at least as aggressive as surgeons, asking the doctor if the operation is a necessity, or whether other treatments can do just as well. (Los Angeles Times)

PARENTING

Planting (and eating) their own veggies

By RUTH MASON

Look, Mom! The sunflower opened up. "Mom, come see. The corn is higher than me!"

These are not the voices of children on a farm in spring but of city children smack in the middle of urban Jerusalem. They had planted that sunflower themselves from a sunflower seed - the kind Israelis love to crack open and eat - and the corn from red kernels donated by North American Hopi Indians.

There's nothing sweeter than watching city kids marvel at the miracles of nature helped by their

hands and taking place right before their eyes.

This fledgling organic community garden located at the Demonstration Farm in Jerusalem's Baka neighborhood, is the brainchild of Elisheva Kaufman, an agriculture teacher from the US who moved to Israel a year ago. Kaufman persuaded the farm, which hosts thousands of school children on educational visits every year, to make available small plots of unused land to people in the community who want to garden.

In a city largely of apartment-dwellers, the new gardeners who planted and now care for their

plants, the Baka allotment is a gift from heaven.

In addition to corn and sunflowers, the community garden boasts kale (whose leaves children and adults alike pick and munch on as they work), broccoli, eggplant, several varieties of squash, fava beans (fava), lettuce, tomatoes, green beans and carrots. And believe me, no sweeter vegetables exist.

When new gardeners first come to the Baka garden, Kaufman gives them seeds and guidance. Participants now gather weekly to plant, weed, tend their gardens and sometimes even share a potluck dinner.

It's a makeshift affair with no watering system (participants take turns watering with a broken hose) and no funding. Kaufman and her assistants Alison and Shmuel Ofanansky, who were involved with Steven's Garden, a children's garden in Safed, volunteer their time teaching the families who come to garden.

"Today, Gabriella brought home a Tamagochi and I was crestfallen that she had decided to take care of this computer object," says Elaine Fletcher, a journalist for foreign newspapers and regular participant in the Baka garden. "Kids today have

gotten too accustomed to powerful, fast stimulation and immediate reinforcement. But they are alienated from the natural world. When they go to a garden, they get to touch the earth and plants, to feel the sun and to watch things grow. It's a way for them to get to know their environment in a more natural and immediate way."

Fletcher says working in the garden has had an unexpected benefit for six-year-old Gabriella. In the past she refused to eat any vegetables. Now that she has planted her own and watched them grow, she eats green beans, lettuce and parsley.

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Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'The abuse excuse' and 'RUTHIE BLUM'.

GARDENER'S CORNER

# Bulbs for spring fever

By BATSHEVA MINK & DAVID BRAUNER

Flowering bulbs produce an element of surprise in your home and garden. Their charmingly simple, often sweet-scented flowers pop out of the earth just when you have forgotten that you planted them.

The blossoms are all the more welcome after a cold, wet winter, when the whole garden seems to come alive. With bulbs and corms even the inexperienced gardener has the opportunity to produce first-class flowers.

As Oscar Wilde said, "I can resist everything except temptation." There are many ways of spending money on your garden, but the most tempting comes with the arrival of the bulbs in the nurseries and garden shops. They seem to call out to be planted. And now in autumn is the time for buying and planting spring bulbs.

Most bulbs are bought ready for planting. The perfectly formed embryo flower is formed within. All the grower needs to do is plant the bulb, nurture it a little, then watch it reach the flowering stage.

For bulbs to flower again the next year depends largely on the conditions they are grown in. Ideally, these ought to correspond or, at least, be similar to the way these plants grow in the wild. This means letting the leaves die naturally, and giving them little or no water after their foliage has died away. The build-up of the flower for the second year depends on the leaves living out their full, natural life span.

In other words, cutting them away prematurely jeopardizes the flower in the coming year.

Most bulb plants need plenty of sunshine to warm and ripen them underground. Bulbs planted in very shady spots do not usually give their best, and will often cease to bloom in the second year. Except for tulips and hyacinths

(to which we will devote a future article), most bulbs should be planted as soon as they are purchased, because they deteriorate very quickly, especially in warm surroundings. Tulips and hyacinths are exceptional, because they need a spell of cold weather to flower well, and in Israel our winters are quite often not cold enough.

Use ornamental shrubs as a backdrop to display your bulbs at their colorful best in spring. For example, plant a low-growing bulb like blue hyacinths under a winter-flowering yellow jasmine.

If you are short of space along the borders of your garden, bulbs can be planted between other spring-flowering plants like sweet Williams or foxgloves. In this setting the bulbs will come into bloom earlier, and their dying foliage will go unnoticed among the greenery. If you find it difficult to let the leaves die naturally because you need the space for planting summer annual flowers, here is a solution to the problem. This method requires a little extra work at planting time, but where space is limited and you want to keep your bulbs for another year, it works very well.

Plant your bulbs in perforated, earth-filled plastic trays (available at nurseries), dig a trench and "plant" the tray into the ground. After flowering, dig up the trays and leave them in a corner of the garden for the foliage to die away naturally. In that way, the bulbs continue growing in the trays, and the trays can be planted again in fall for the following spring.

As we mentioned in last week's article on daffodils, it is better to buy loose bulbs rather than the prepacked products. Loose bulbs are not only less expensive, but you can examine each one, and hand-pick them individually for quality. Remember, choose large, firm bulbs that have a heavy feel to them.



The Amsterdam flower market, where thousands of loose bulbs are sold. (Connie Rubinstein)

Here are a few of our favorite bulbs and corms:

**Anemone coronaria** (Heb. *kalaniti*). These flowers are the same as our wild anemones which can be seen throughout much of the country from January onwards. The wild varieties possess a surprisingly broader range of colors than the domestics which come in white, pink, red, blue and purple. These small corms (a form of bulb that has more stem tissue and fewer scale leaves) should be soaked in water for at least eight hours before planting in order to speed the growing process. Plant in full sun with only a thin, 1-cm. covering of soil on top. Regular feeding with liquid fertilizer in early spring prolongs flowering and the quality of the blossoms. Removing the faded blooms is recommended.

Gently lift the corms from the earth after flowering and store in a dry place. If they are planted in an area that receives little or no water at all during the summer, you may leave them in the ground, thus emulating their growing pattern in the wild.

**Freesia** (Heb. *freesia*). This delightful genus of bulbous corms is a native of South Africa. These pretty funnel-shaped flowers, which bloom in early spring, are renowned for their sweet fragrance and their wide range of colors that include white, yellow, orange, red and purple. Freesias grow from 40 to 60 cm. high, and their blossoms are between 3 and 6 cm. long. These bulbs are easily grown and spread very well, which is another reason for making them our favorite spring flowers. They require at least 100 days

of direct sunshine on their leaves to build up flowers for a second season. Carefully remove the corms from the earth after flowering and store in a dry place.

Freeseas are also well suited for growing in pots and boxes that receive full sunlight. After flowering ceases, continue to water them until their foliage turns yellow. Reduce watering and keep them on the dry side until August. The largest corms are likely to flower again in the following year. The smaller ones should be grown separately in order for them to achieve a fuller size, and these, too, will eventually come to flower, most probably in the second year.

**Ranunculus** (Heb. *nurir*). Popularly known as the buttercup, this genus has a clawlike tuberous root, and is a member of the same



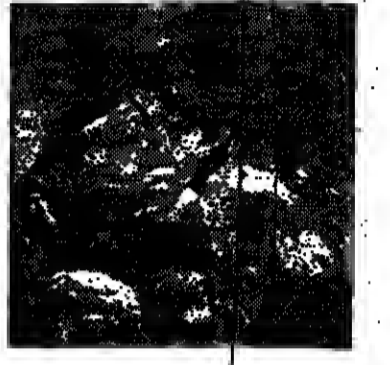
family as the anemone. In nature they grow throughout the countryside, but particularly on hills, from spring onwards. This plant is mostly red or occasionally orange in the wild. The commercial varieties, however, have been bred to flower in white, yellow, orange, pink, red and purple.

Plant the root claws pointing downwards in full sun with only about one cm. of soil above them. Prepare the soil in advance by digging it over well and fortifying it with compost. Space the plants between 10 and 15 cm. apart.

When your buttercups are fully in bloom in March and April, water them frequently and feed them with some liquid fertilizer every 7-10 days to improve the quality of the flowers. They make a most beautiful cut flower for the home. Stop watering when the leaves die down, or remove the

bulbs from the earth and store them in a dry place until planting time again in the fall.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O. Box 3943, Jerusalem 91039. David Brauner, [morrir@ashur.cc.biu.ac.il](mailto:morrir@ashur.cc.biu.ac.il) e-mail.



### TIP OF THE WEEK

If you want to decorate your home with flowers, consider Freesia. This delightful genus of bulbous corms is a native of South Africa. These pretty funnel-shaped flowers, which bloom in early spring, are renowned for their sweet fragrance and their wide range of colors that include white, yellow, orange, red and purple. Freesias grow from 40 to 60 cm. high, and their blossoms are between 3 and 6 cm. long. These bulbs are easily grown and spread very well, which is another reason for making them our favorite spring flowers. They require at least 100 days

### HEADS 'N' TAILS

# A special dog for special needs

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

I received a most compelling letter recently from a man in the Sharon area. He writes: "I am a paraplegic and am confined to a wheelchair. I live alone and have a helper who comes every day to assist me. I am very independent. I cook my own meals, do my own laundry and go twice or three times a day for a (st)roll in my chair. I want to keep a dog, but my family and my friends are opposed. I am sure I can manage life...with a dog. What do you think? What kind of dog should I choose?"

First and foremost, you can keep a dog! Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. I knew a man who was paraplegic and blind, and he was

able to keep a guide dog. So there is no reason for someone who is paraplegic to forgo this source of comfort, companionship and pleasure.

There are, however, certain things to consider. First, you need a dog that is not overly excitable. This means a Labrador, a golden retriever, a boxer or perhaps a large (standard) poodle. These are very stable dogs that adapt well to special situations.

Then you must consider what a dog needs. It requires a secure home, and it appears that you can supply that. It also needs to be groomed. With a person in your situation, a dog must learn from the start to hop up onto a table of whatever height is comfortable for you so you can groom it. As for training, all you really

require is that the dog walk sedately beside your chair when you go out, sit or wait on command, and come when called. All this can be taught in a few simple lessons given by you and a competent trainer. Because your needs are special, I would suggest that you shop around for a trainer who understands your requirements. Make a lot of calls until you speak with someone who is more interested in your particular situation than in routine training. You do not need an entire obedience course, you simply want to train a dog to be your personal companion.

I think you have chosen one of the best solutions for finding constant companionship and a richer quality of life. I say go for it!



Stable dogs that are not easily excitable, such as a Labrador or golden retriever, make good pets for people with special needs.



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by Aviva Bar-Am & Yisrael Shalem

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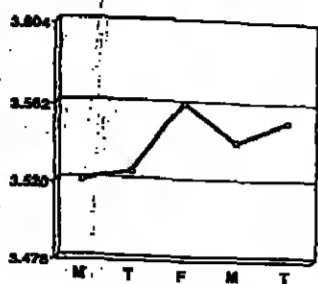
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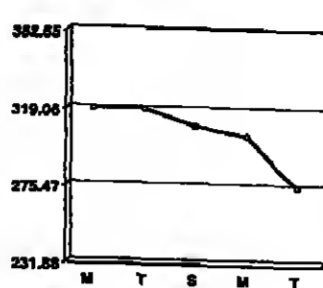
## MARKETS

in brief

### DOLLAR / SHEKEL

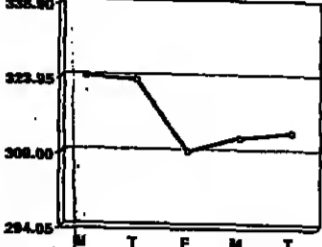


### MAOF INDEX



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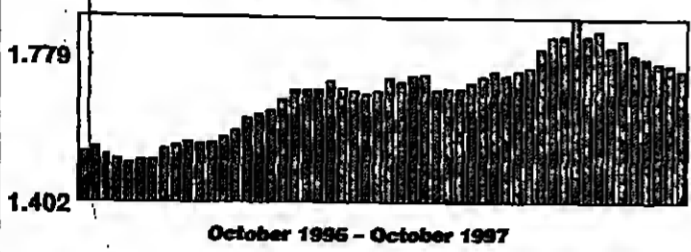


### OIL

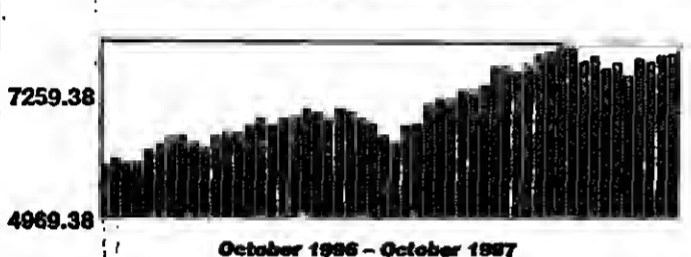
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



### DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



### DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



# Mutual funds lose NIS 500 million in withdrawals during TASE plunge

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Redemptions from mutual funds yesterday amounted to some NIS 500 million out of total assets of NIS 20 billion, according to Zvi Stepak, managing director of Meitav Investments and Securities.

The TASE posted its worst one-day fall since August 12, 1994, when the government said it planned to impose a capital gains tax.

During the session, trading was halted automatically for 45 minutes after the Maof index fell 8 percent. Trading in the Karam and Meretz was also suspended. It will

resume today.

Traders said that the main sellers were portfolio managers and mutual funds.

The fact that Koor Industries was the most active issue, with volume of NIS 32m, triggered speculation that Claridge Israel used the opportunity to raise its stake in the company.

Another rumor said that the Arison Group was taking advantage of the fact that foreign investors were selling Bank Hapoalim shares to buy an additional stake in the bank.

Local traders witnessed for the first time a sharp fall in the TASE that had nothing to do with the

Israeli economy. They said that the drop should be seen as an adjustment to the decline of Wall Street.

"It's part of the globalization process," said one broker. "The Israeli market is not overpriced like the American. Stock prices that were reasonable on Monday are even more attractive now."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his confidence in the economy, saying that it is one of the best in the world and has a promising future.

Israel Radio reported that Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman called on the public to carefully consider its investment steps and not to "get caught up in the

panic."

Analysts said that investors would eye Wall Street and Asian markets before they decide how the act today.

A rise in New York could ease the expected slump when trading starts in the small capitalization shares traded on the Karam.

The feeling among brokers is that the current correction will not last long and that the market will resume its rise soon, unless something dramatic happens abroad.

Several big institutional investors said that if the market continues to fall in the next two days, they would take it as an

excellent purchase opportunity.

The main fear expressed by market sources is that foreign institutional investors, who specialize in emerging markets and need to sell stocks, will prefer to sell Israeli stocks to selling shares in Asian markets.

A massive sale of foreign holdings in the TASE may lead to a further decline, because these investors are believed to hold almost 4% of the shares in the market.

A flight of foreign investors can also lead to a further rise in the shekel when the shekels received for the sale are converted into foreign currency.

# Crash has marginal effect on average Israeli

## ANALYSIS

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Many Israelis woke up yesterday wondering how the tumbling of the local and international stock markets may affect them directly.

The answer is that it will probably have very little impact, if at all, on the average middle-class wage earner, or small-business owner.

Most Israeli investors abandoned direct investments in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange following the 1993 crash, and haven't returned there since. The general public learned its lesson and wasn't tempted to try its luck again, even after the market showed an impressive surge of about 47 percent since the beginning of the year.

The main investors in the TASE currently are local majority- and minority-share holders (66%), foreign investors (4%), institutional investors — including private

fund (9%), insurance companies and mutual funds (5%), portfolio managers, and those who like to consider themselves "sophisticated investors."

When the bourse started its recent rise in the summer of 1996, many analysts predicted it would be only a matter of time before the broader public would return to the market, attracted by newspaper headlines describing the amazing opportunity to earn "easy money." The main belief was that the public, faced with declining interest rates, would be tempted to convert part of its shekel-linked deposits and opt for shares.

This forecast, or wishful thinking, which was one of the main forces fueling the TASE, never materialized; total daily volume, even on the most active trading ses-

sions, didn't exceed NIS 300 million, a figure substantially lower than the daily turnover in the merry pre-fall days of 1993.

Despite the fact that most Israelis are not investing directly, many are exposed to the stock market indirectly. Most companies deduct a percentage of their employees' monthly wages for investments in mutual funds and insurance policies — known as executive policies — as part of workers' social benefits schemes.

Mutual funds have the legal right to invest up to 50% of their holdings in the stock market. However, an investment manager in one of the country's biggest mutual funds said that these institutions, which control about NIS 70 billion, keep

only 13% to 17.5% of their holding in stocks.

Insurance companies are allowed to invest only up to 15% of their holdings in the stock market and financial industry sources estimate that most companies are getting close to that limit.

According to analysts, even if the TASE continues falling in the coming days even down to a drop of 20%, the returns presented by mutual funds and insurance companies would show a decrease of only 1.5% to 2%, after posting real yields of more than 6% since the beginning of the year.

The actual damage of such a decline is almost negligible, because these schemes should be viewed as long-term investments. And in the long run, the effect of the Asian crisis may ultimately be hardly remembered.

# American Express signs local franchise deal with Histour

By HAIM SHAPIRO

American Express, the largest travel company in the world, yesterday signed a franchise agreement with Histour-Altiv, a Koor subsidiary, whereby the 16 branches of the Israeli company are to be known as American Express Travel offices.

The local company is to take over all the travel and tourism functions of American Express, including the right to issue travelers checks and to change money. American Express credit cards are to continue to be issued by Bank Hapoalim.

The agreement was signed yesterday by American Express senior vice-president for tourism Rick Zeckendorf, Koor executive director Benny Gaon, Gil Leidner, director of Koor Tourism and chairman of Histour-Altiv, and Eli Gonen, director of Histour-Altiv.

American Express has over 1,700 branches around the world and last year announced a turnover of some \$15.8 billion in tourism. Histour, which has an annual turnover of some \$70 million, claims to be the country's leading business travel company. In overall travel, Dissenhaus is the largest, followed by Ophir Tours and Histour-Altiv, which both vie for second place.

Histour-Altiv is the product of a merger between Histour, which dealt mainly in leisure tourism,

and Altiv, which specialized in business travel.

Leidner said yesterday that the agreement is in line with Koor's decision to increase its activities in the travel sphere, a decision already implemented in the company's acquisition of 50 percent of the shares of Bali Tours and an increase in its holdings in Knafaim-Arkia. The agreement is to run for a minimum of 20 years.

Gonen said that the agreement constitutes a "revolution" in the travel industry in Israel. "This is the first time in Israel that a local company is becoming part of a major international travel operation," he said.

He pointed out that the agreement will make available for Histour-Altiv customers the entire range of travel options offered by American Express.

At the same time, he said, the local company, which until now has only specialized in outgoing tourism, would become involved in providing services for the American Express customers from overseas.

The agreement, he added, would also enable Histour-Altiv clients to obtain emergency services from American Express throughout the world and for American Express clients from abroad to call upon similar services throughout Israel.



Done deal

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman displays a facsimile share certificate yesterday after a consortium led by Israeli-American entrepreneur Ted Arison (left) bought a controlling, 43-percent share in Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest financial institution, for \$1.4 billion. (Israel Herald)

# Bidders submit application for 3rd cell-phone license

By JUDY SEGEL

Three consortia yesterday presented bids to the Communications Ministry to become the third supplier of cellular phone services, alongside Pelephone and Cellcom.

The winner, which will be selected within nine months, will have the right to operate for 10 years with an optional extension for six years — the same terms as the existing two companies.

The bidders were the GSM Group (Koor Industries, Mansnan, Aureq Local Information Services, Yediot Cellular, and Globescom Cellular); Partner (Hutchinson, Matav, and Elbitcom); and Tapuz

(Arison Investments, Eurocom Holdings, AT&T Wireless, Talia, and Poslim Investments). Ministry Director-General Daniel Rosecone is chairman of the tender board.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat expressed satisfaction with the number of applicants and the makeup of the consortia. "Competition among three cellular phone companies will bring about better and cheaper service," she said.

Participation in the tender by foreign companies shows that the tender was "good and professional," Livnat added, and that Israel continues to attract outside investors.

# NOT EVERYONE LOSES WHEN THE MARKET DROPS

If the stock market plunge caught you by surprise, maybe it's time to rethink your investment strategies. A well-planned portfolio that includes holdings in financial futures and options can make volatility work in your favor.

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# International Finance Corp. to grant \$16 million for Gaza industrial park

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, said it will provide a \$16m. financing package for an industrial park in Gaza, a statement released by the IFC said.

Jannik Lindbaek, executive vice president of the IFC, signed agreements for the Gaza Industrial Estate, which is expected to employ up to 20,000 Palestinian workers in about 250 factories. The park will be located in the northeastern edge of the Gaza Strip.

"The project will help to alleviate the severe unemployment that has been crippling the Palestinian economy," Lindbaek said in the statement. "GIE's location on the border will facilitate greater inte-

gration of Gaza's economy with the rest of the world."

Munib Masri, vice chairman of Palestine Development and Investment Co., the main sponsor of the project, and Farouk Toukan, chairman of the board of the Palestine Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (PIECO) also signed the agreement. PIECO, a private sector company, will build and operate GIE, a \$39 million project.

The GIE park will include garment manufacturing, wood working, plastics, food processing and information services companies. GIE hopes to attract local and expatriate Palestinian businesses as well as Israeli firms.

At a later stage, PIECO intends to market GIE to multinational businesses.

The IFC's package includes a direct loan of \$8m., a syndicated loan of up to \$7m., and an equity investment of \$1m. in the share capital of PIECO.

IFC is a multilateral source of equity and loan financing for private sector projects in developing countries. The corporation has approved about \$165.3m. in the West Bank and Gaza.

## PETITIONS

Continued from Page 1

As for the attack made by Neeman on the Reform following their earlier decision not to agree to a delay, Regev said that this reflected the Orthodox background in which Neeman had been educated.

"He has made great strides, but that is his world view," Regev said. "I am sorry about how he feels, but what is important now is not his personal feelings, but the results of the committee."

Meanwhile, the IRAC, which is representing some 30 converts in cases before the Jerusalem District Court and the High Court, has to go about gaining the agreement of the converts to the delay.

On the issue of the religious councils, MK Yossi Sarid of Meretz said that his party, which had nominated several Reform and Conservative representatives to religious councils, had agreed to delay its own petitions on the appointments.

Sarid said he finds it difficult to believe that the Orthodox establishment would accept a just and fair compromise, but he is willing to give additional time to the Neeman Committee — but not beyond the end of January.

The Hebrew University yesterday expressed apprehension regarding extremism surrounding

the conversion debate, which it said exacerbates divisions within Israeli Jewish society and in the entire Jewish world.

It called upon all sectors to support a compromise solution promoting harmonious coexistence.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, who had worked closely with the Reform and Conservative rabbis, praised the decision to agree to a further delay and also proposed that Neeman be granted the Israel Prize for his efforts in this area.

"You have become the most important person in our generation in resolving this historic problem," Burg said in a letter to Neeman.

At 9 a.m., after feverish phone contacts the evening before from Weizman's bureau chief Arye Shumer, a delegation, including Reform Rabbi Asher Hirsch, Conservative Rabbi Elmad Bandel, and Rabbi Rosen met with Weizman at Beit Hanassi.

The president listened to each side and within less than an hour, all had agreed to give Neeman's committee a further three months to hammer out the issues.

"We have agreed to the president's request to bring real peace and quiet to the nation and House of Israel," Hirsch said. He added that they would request that the petitions due to come up before the High Court today be postponed.

"The path is still long, but we are marching along it," said Rosen.

Bandel pointed out that the fact that the Chief Rabbinate had approved Rosen's participation had made the decision easier.

Netanyahu said later that he "welcomes the opportunity to reach an agreement that is essential to all the Jewish people. I am as relieved today as I was perplexed yesterday. I hope [the dialogue] will lead to a fruitful conclusion."

Lubotzky seemed relieved after yesterday's agreement.

"From the start, [the Reform and Conservative] negative answer was a mistake," he said. "It was a pity it happened and it's good that we've overcome it. [Monday] there was general feeling — including among the opposition — that the Reform leaders should not waste this historic opportunity and should have a little more patience," Lubotzky said, stressing the committee is not trying just to gain time but to reach a true solution.

Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) welcomed the agreement and said the committee would freeze work on the conversion bill.

The religious councils bill was submitted to the Knesset but will not be brought up for first reading at this stage.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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Table with columns: Ticker, Last Price, Change. Includes companies like Axi, Azura, Bekaert, etc.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: Ticker, Last Price, Change. Includes companies like Axi, Azura, Bekaert, etc.

Large table of financial data with columns: Ticker, Last Price, Change. Includes various company tickers and their market values.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

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AMEX

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NASDAQ

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NYSE

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LONDON

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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NEW YORK

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Tel Aviv	31.48	+0.17
Jerusalem	23.55	+0.25
Tel Aviv	31.48	+0.17
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Tel Aviv	31.48	+0.17
Jerusalem	23.55	+0.25

Currency	Rate	Change
USD (\$)	3.25	-0.02
EUR (€)	2.21	-0.01
GBP (£)	4.85	-0.02
JPY (¥)	22.15	-0.05
CHF (S)	3.55	-0.01
AUD (\$)	2.12	-0.01
NZD (\$)	1.95	-0.01
HKD (H)	4.76	-0.01
TWD (N)	34.5	-0.5
SGD (S)	2.05	-0.01
THB (B)	25.5	-0.5
INR (R)	35.5	-0.5
KRW (W)	210	-5
MYR (R)	3.8	-0.05
SAR (R)	3.75	-0.01
AED (D)	3.67	-0.01

Index	Value	Change
DJ Industrials	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Transp.	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Utility	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Retail	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Health	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Telecom	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Energy	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Chemical	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Machinery	7,993.32	+337.17
DJ Metals	7,993.32	+337.17

Country	Rate	Change
UK (Sterling)	0.65	-0.01
France (Franc)	6.55	-0.01
Germany (Mark)	1.94	-0.01
Japan (Yen)	137.20	-0.5
Canada (Dollar)	0.72	-0.01
Switzerland (Franc)	2.03	-0.01
Australia (Dollar)	1.55	-0.01
South Africa (Rand)	7.50	-0.05
Italy (Lira)	2.00	-0.01
Spain (Peseta)	166.64	-1.0
Netherlands (Guilder)	2.20	-0.01
Belgium (Franc)	2.34	-0.01
Denmark (Krone)	6.46	-0.01
Sweden (Krona)	8.46	-0.01
Poland (Zloty)	20.50	-0.5
Czech Republic (Koruna)	20.00	-0.5
Slovakia (Koruna)	20.00	-0.5
Hungary (Forint)	20.00	-0.5
Czechia (Czech Koruna)	20.00	-0.5
Slovenia (Tolar)	20.00	-0.5
Croatia (Kuna)	20.00	-0.5
Serbia (Dinar)	20.00	-0.5
Bosnia (Convertible Mark)	20.00	-0.5
Yugoslavia (Dinar)	20.00	-0.5
Russia (Ruble)	20.00	-0.5
Ukraine (Hryvnia)	20.00	-0.5
Poland (Zloty)	20.00	-0.5
Czech Republic (Koruna)	20.00	-0.5
Slovakia (Koruna)	20.00	-0.5
Hungary (Forint)	20.00	-0.5
Czechia (Czech Koruna)	20.00	-0.5
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Yugoslavia (Dinar)	20.00	-0.5
Russia (Ruble)	20.00	-0.5
Ukraine (Hryvnia)	20.00	-0.5

Commodity	Price	Change
Crude Oil (WTI)	27.42	+0.05
Natural Gas	3.45	+0.02
Heating Oil	23.15	+0.01
Gasoline	28.50	+0.01
Gold	385.00	+5.00
Silver	7.80	+0.05
Copper	1.55	+0.01
Aluminum	1.80	+0.01
Zinc	1.10	+0.01
Nickel	1.20	+0.01
Platinum	850.00	+10.00
Palladium	1000.00	+20.00
Rice	12.00	+0.10
Wheat	10.00	+0.05
Corn	8.00	+0.05
Soybeans	11.00	+0.10
Cocoa	3000.00	+50.00
Sugar	25.00	+0.50
Iron Ore	20.00	+0.50
Steel	35.00	+0.50
Lead	1.50	+0.01
Tin	200.00	+5.00
Antimony	100.00	+3.00
Vanadium	150.00	+5.00
Manganese	100.00	+3.00
Niobium	150.00	+5.00
Zirconium	100.00	+3.00
Yttrium	150.00	+5.00
Barium	100.00	+3.00
Strontium	150.00	+5.00
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Copper	150.00	+5.00
Aluminum	100.00	+3.00
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Gadolinium	150.00	+5.00
Terbium	100.00	+3.00
Dysprosium	150.0	

THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GRILLER FAY CASHMAN

The ripple effect

Sharp falls in the Hong Kong and New York markets sent shivers around the world, and local equity markets as well as the vulnerable shekel are likely victims of the meltdowns

By NEIL COHEN

The timing of this article is more than a little awkward. Due to deadline constraints, I am writing this after the meltdown in Hong Kong and the subsequent sharp falls in most other world equity markets...

This also means that the stocks in the accompanying portfolio chart do not reflect any impact on the TASE of last week's events. Under these circumstances I'm not making any changes in the portfolio.

There is a strong argument that the reasons for the sell-off in Hong Kong are fairly specific, if not to Hong Kong then at least to the Asian markets. Slowing economic growth and increasing strains on governmental finances (sound familiar?) have pointed speculative funds in the direction of overvalued and hence vulnerable currencies.

Hong Kong was widely regarded as one of the safer bets in an increasingly hairy Asian universe, but after most of the currencies had taken a pounding, it was a fair bet that Hong Kong might come in for the same treatment.

With huge foreign currency reserves, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority is well able to mount a sustained, though not unlimited, battle against the speculators, and with international confidence in the area, it is likely to attempt to defend the currency.

There are various arguments as to the short- and long-term impact of the financial turmoil in the Far East. Several commentators have

PERSONAL FINANCE



argued that some of the money coming out of Asian stocks will find its way back to European and US markets, consequently representing a mild positive for more developed markets.

What I do think will happen is that Western central banks will be more cautious about tightening

their own monetary policies. Many observers felt that the US Federal Reserve was likely to raise interest rates in November to prevent any reappearance of inflation in the US economy.

In my opinion, the threat that should most concern the local market, and is highlighted by events in the Far East, is the potential fragility of the shekel. Certainly, the central bank's high interest-rate policy has held the shekel well above its fundamental value.

The first is the more general effect of equity-market turmoil. Major world equity markets fall, New York in particular, we fall too.

The second is somewhat more specific. We have an economy with some difficulties and an overvalued currency. The shekel has to be a target ripe for speculators.

Like mother like son: Hyperactive model Ruth Gonzales has already put her six-month-old son David to work. Taking to his first job like a duck to water, the infant joined his mom in a commercial for fresh Ones moistened paper diapers.

Noted Australian journalist Michael Gavenda is the new editor of the prestigious Melbourne daily The Age. A former editor of Time Magazine in Australia, Gavenda, 50, has won many awards. A well known figure in the Australian Jewish community and a former chairman of the Sholem Aleichem School Board, Gavenda is currently working on a biography of winning tycoon and international philanthropist Joseph Gutnick.

Suzan Hingee, president of Hebraic International, has been elected Woman of Achievement by the Los Angeles Branch of the Shalom Medical Center. Known for its nutritional weight control and hair-care products, Hebraic has donated \$60,000 for research projects at the Shalom Medical Center, Tel Hashomer.

Prof. Anita Galin has been appointed as the director of the management center at Leibniz, the Management Faculty at Tel Aviv University. Galin holds a D.Sc. in management sciences from the Technion's Institute of Technology and is an expert in work re-structuring.

Other Kibbutz is the new sales manager for Pelephone Communications. An economics and business management graduate from Tel Aviv University, Kibbutz has held executive positions in other business firms.

Bank Tefahot has announced the appointment of Ya'acov Shvartzberg as manager of its designated credit division. He previously served as manager of Tefahot's central region branch.

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce has unanimously approved the appointment of Mordechai Turtish as FCC director general. A lawyer by profession, Turtish, 54, has previously served as FCC vice president and as a member of its presidium.

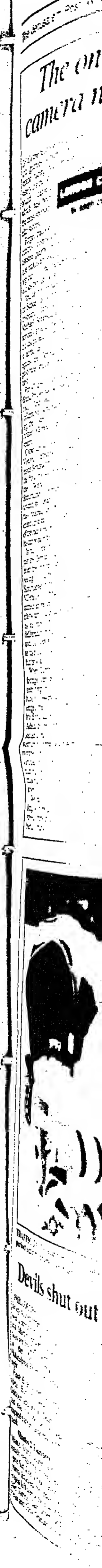
NEIL'S PORTFOLIO table showing various stocks and bonds with columns for No. of shares, Cost/share, Total cost, Current price, and Current value.

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table listing various mutual funds under categories: FLEXIBLE, SHARES, STATE BONDS, FOREIGN CURRENCY, and MIXED. Columns include Fund's name, unit cost, redemption price, monthly yield, and NIS assets.

מזכירות המדור





# The 1997-98 NBA season in predicted order of finish

Season begins  
Friday, October 31

## EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DIVISION

**MIAMI HEAT**  
Last season - 61-21. Eliminated 4-1 in Eastern Conference finals by Chicago.

**COACH**-Pat Riley, 3rd season with Heat, 103-61. 15th season overall, 859-360.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** C Duane Causwell (trade with Kings), F Todd Day (free agent, Celtics), F Terry Mills (free agent, Pistons), G Eric Murdock (free agent, Denver), G Charles Smith (draft, No. 26, New Mexico), LOST-G John Croty (free agent, Kings), F Bruce Bowen (free agent, Boston).

**STRENGTHS**-Coming off the most surprisingly successful season of any team in the NBA, the Heat players bought into Riley's philosophy and lasted longer than most people expected. Their biggest problem last season (aside from Alonzo Mourning's play-off performance against the Bulls) was a lack of depth, and they addressed it well in the offseason.

**WEAKNESSES**-Mourning is out until at least mid-December because of knee surgery, which will make it tough for the Heat to duplicate the early season success they had over the first six weeks of last season.

**NEW YORK KNICKS**  
Last season - 57-25. Eliminated 4-3 in second round by Miami.

**COACH**-Jeff Van Gundy, 3rd season, 70-34.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** C Chris Dudley (trade with Portland), G Pete Myers (free agent, Italian League), F Chris Mills (trade with Boston), LOST: F John Wallace (traded to Toronto), F Walter McCarty (traded to Toronto), F Dontae Jones (traded to Celtics), G Scott Brooks (traded to Celtics), F John Thomas (draft, No. 25, Minnesota).

**STRENGTHS**-One of the older teams in the league, the Knicks added even more experience by picking up Dudley, who will allow Patrick Ewing to play fewer minutes and save his chronically sore knees for the postseason. Allan Houston, a surprise pick for the U.S. 1998 World Championship team, has performed well in the play-offs the last two years.

**WEAKNESSES**-The \$80 million backcourt that debuted last season, Chris Childs and Houston, looked like a waste of money last year. Childs is tentative and unproductive. The knock against Houston is that he is too timid, defers to Ewing too often and doesn't score consistently. Dealing four No. 1 picks—Wallace, McCarty, Jones and Thomas—is a big sacrifice for two backups.

**WASHINGTON WIZARDS**  
Last season - 44-38, eliminated 3-0 by Chicago in first round.

**COACH**-Bernie Bickerstaff, first full season, 22-13 last season; 283-289 overall in eight seasons.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G God Shammgod (draft, No. 46, Providence), F Darwin Ham (free agent, Indiana), LOST: Nickname Bulls (retired).

**STRENGTHS**-The Wizards were playing some of the best ball in the league at the end of last season and did OK against Chicago in the playoffs despite losing three straight. Chris Webber, Juwan Howard and Rod Strickland make up three-fifths of a strong starting lineup. Two legit 3-point shooters coming off the bench in Tracy Murray and Tim Legler.

**WEAKNESSES**-They underachieved for Jim Lynum before he was fired, then reacted tentatively to Bickerstaff. They have plenty of potential but nothing to show for it. From Webber to Strickland to Howard to Shammgod, George Mursan's slowness prevents the Wizards from running and gunning as much as they probably should.

**WEAKNESSES**-Webber's free throw shooting is Shaquille.  
**ORLANDO MAGIC**  
Last season - 45-37, eliminated 3-2 by Miami in first round.

**COACH**-Chuck Daly, first season with Magic; 564-379 overall in 12 seasons.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G Mark Price (trade with Warriors), G Derek Harper (trade with Dallas), F Ed O'Bannon (trade with Dallas), C Charles Oatlaw (free agent), F Johnny Taylor (draft, No. 17, Tennessee-Chattanooga), LOST: F Dennis Scott (traded in Dallas), G Brian Shaw, F David Vaughn (trade with Warriors).

**STRENGTHS**-Penny Hardaway is moving from point guard to shooting guard in the hope that his one-on-one offensive skills and 25-foot shooting range can be better utilized. Harper adds a playoff-tested veteran to a team that could have used one in last year's postseason. Rony Seikaly is coming off a very impressive season.

**WEAKNESSES**-The trade of Scott left a hole at the small forward spot that Nick Anderson will have to fill. Scott was the Magic's best long-range shooter over the past several years. Daly, who will coach a group of players who mutilated against Brian Hill last season, needs to show he didn't come back just for the money and still knows how to win.

**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS**  
Last season - 22-60.

**COACH**-Larry Brown, first season with Sixers; 15th season overall, 624-480.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G Eric Jackson (trade with Nets), G Eric Murdock (trade with Nets), F Terry Cummings (free agent, Seattle), F Tim Thomas (draft, No. 7, Villanova), G Anthony Parker (draft, No. 21, Bradley), G Marko Milic (draft, No. 34, Slovenia), F Kebu Stewart (draft, No. 36, Cal-State Bakersfield), LOST-C Michael Cage (traded to New Jersey), F Don MacLean (traded to New Jersey).

**STRENGTHS**-Philadelphia has plenty of former top draft picks in Allen Iverson, Jerry Stackhouse, Derrick Coleman and Jackson—each with the talent to contribute to a winning team. Brown is one of the best coaches in NBA history, notwithstanding his debacle with the Pacers last season.

**WEAKNESSES**-Personality disorder. With the team learning Brown's system, no one is yet sure of his role. Most affected is Iverson, who isn't sure when he'll be required to be a distributor, a scorer or both. Coleman wants a trade, but nobody wants to trade for him.

The front office also seems to be intent on trading Clarence Weatherspoon.

**NEW JERSEY NETS**  
Last season - 26-56.

**COACH**-John Calipari, second season, 36-56.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Keith Van Horn (draft, No. 2, Utah), C Michael Cage (trade with 76ers), F Don MacLean (trade with 76ers), G Lucious Harris (trade with 76ers), LOST: G Jim Jackson (trade with 76ers), C Eric Montross (trade with 76ers), C Joe Kleine (free agent, Bulls), F Tony Massenburg (free agent, Celtics).

**STRENGTHS**-There are no certain All-Stars, but Van Horn (draft, No. 2, Utah), C Michael Cage (trade with 76ers), F Don MacLean (trade with 76ers), G Lucious Harris (trade with 76ers), LOST: G Jim Jackson (trade with 76ers), C Eric Montross (trade with 76ers), C Joe Kleine (free agent, Bulls), F Tony Massenburg (free agent, Celtics).

**WEAKNESSES**-The Nets are a doughnut team—a big hole in the middle. Yinka Dare is their only true center, and Williams will have to hold down the spot for the foreseeable future.

**BOSTON CELTICS**  
Last season - 15-67.

**COACH**-Rick Pitino, first year with Celtics; 90-74 overall in two seasons.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** C Travis Knight (free agent, Lakers), Tony Massenburg (free agent, Nets), F Andrew DeClercq (free agent, Orlando), G Tyus Edney (free agent, Sacramento), G Bruce Bowen (free agent, Miami), G Chauncey Billups (draft, No. 3, Colorado), G Ray Mercer (draft, No. 5, Kentucky), F Walter McCarty (trade with New York), F Dontae Jones (trade with New York), F John Thomas (draft, No. 23, Minnesota), LOST-F Dimo Radjic (free agent, Italian League), G David Wesley (free agent, Hornets), F Rick Fox (free agent, Lakers), F Frank Brickowski (free agent), C Marty Conlon (free agent), F Todd Day (free agent, Heat), C Alton Lister (free agent), F Eric Williams (traded to Denver), F Chris Mills (free agent, Cavaliers), F John Thomas (traded to New York).

**STRENGTHS**-Antonio Walker's talent and Pitino's optimism. Walker has been posting All-Star type numbers during the exhibition season after being one of the most undrafted first-year players in 1996-97.

**WEAKNESSES**-The Celtics are even less talented than they were last season when they had the worst record to franchise history. The players are having trouble adapting to Pitino's style of full-court pressure and shooting the 3-pointer.

## CENTRAL DIVISION

**CHICAGO BULLS**  
Last season - 69-13. Won NBA championship 4-2 over Utah.

**COACH**-Phil Jackson, ninth season, 483-173.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** C Joe Kleine (free agent, Nets), F Scott Burrell (trade with Golden State), F Keith Booth (draft, No. 29, Maryland), LOST-F Dickey Simpkins (traded to Golden State), C Brian Williams (free agent, Pistons), C Robert Parish (retired).

**STRENGTHS**-Supremely confident following their fifth title in seven years, the Bulls know—just like everyone else—that they are the team to beat. Jordan is again the favorite to win the NBA scoring title. Dennis Rodman has to be among the favorites for the rebounding title and Burrell will help make up for the early season absence of Scottie Pippen (foot surgery).

**WEAKNESSES**-Pippen's injury is the biggest, since it could prevent Chicago from jumping out in front in the Eastern Conference and securing the homecourt advantage for the playoffs. The Bulls also have to deal with the almost certain reality that this will be their last year together before the front office begins rebuilding.

Not a lot of happy campers here.

**CHARLOTTE HORNETS**  
Last season - 54-28, eliminated 3-0 by New York in first round.

**COACH**-Dave Cowens, second season, 54-28.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G David Wesley (free agent, Celtics), G Bobby Phillips (free agent, Cavaliers), F J.R. Reid (free agent, Europe).

**STRENGTHS**-The new backcourt looks to be an immediate improvement over last year's duo of the off-injured Larry Hughes and the aging Pierce. Wesley and Phillips will improve the Hornets' backcourt defense. Glen Rice, Anthony Mason and Vladi Divac can be a free agent next summer, so he'll want to have a big year. The best 3-point shooting team in the league last season.

**WEAKNESSES**-Injuries and a lack of defensive intensity hurt the Hornets last year, and the health of this team will play a big role in the outcome of their season. Hughes is fighting with the front office, which wanted him to retire. Rice disappeared in the fourth quarters of playoff games against New York.

**DETROIT PISTONS**  
Last season - 54-28, eliminated 3-2 by Atlanta in first round.

**COACH**-Doug Collins, third season with Pistons, 100-64; sixth season overall, 237-173.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** C Brian Williams (free agent, Bulls), G Malik Sealy (free agent, Clippers), F Scott Pollard (F, No. 19, Kansas), F Charles O'Bannon (draft, No. 32, UCLA), LOST-F Otis Thorpe (traded to Vancouver), G Michael Curry (free agent, Bucks), F Terry Mills (free agent, Heat), G Randolph Childress

(free agent).

**STRENGTHS**-Have the best one-on-one shot creator aside from Michael Jordan in Grant Hill, who goes to the basket better and more often than any player in the league. The addition of Williams gives the Pistons the true center they have been lacking since the championship years. The re-signing of free agents Joe Dumars and Lindsey Hunter keeps the backcourt together.

**WEAKNESSES**-The trade of Thorpe will improve team chemistry, but the Pistons lose a workmanlike low-post player who can make 60 percent of his shots and provide double figures in points and rebounds on most nights. Theo Ratliff tries to fill that role.

**ATLANTA HAWKS**  
Last season - 56-26, eliminated 4-1 by Chicago in second round.

**COACH**-Lenny Wilkens, fifth season with Hawks, 201-127; 25th season overall, 1,070-576.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G Ed Gray (draft, No. 22, California), Chris Crawford (draft, No. 51, Marquette), LOST-F Henry James (free agent, Cavaliers), C Priest Lauderdale (traded to Denver), O Jon Barry (free agent, Lakers).

**STRENGTHS**-In Mookie Blylock and Steve Smith, the Hawks have perhaps the best starting backcourt in the league. Dikembe Mutombo and Christian Laettner add to one of the best starting fives around, but the Hawks still have a hole to fill at small forward.

They were looking to address that problem by talking to the Phoenix Suns about a trade for Cedric Ceballos.

**WEAKNESSES**-As good as the starters are, the reserves are at the opposite end of the spectrum. Atlanta has almost no one of value on the bench, which forces the starters to log a lot of minutes and leaves them exhausted heading into the postseason.

**MILWAUKEE BUCKS**  
Last season - 33-49.

**COACH**-Chris Ford, second year, 33-49.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G Terrell Brandon (trade with Cavaliers), F Tyrone Hill (trade with Cavs), C Ervin Johnson (trade with Nuggets), G Michael Curry (free agent), LOST-F Vin Baker (traded to Seattle), G Sherman Douglas (traded to Cavaliers), F Johnny Newman (traded to Nuggets), F Joe Wolf (traded to Nuggets).

**STRENGTHS**-On paper, the blockbuster trade of Baker seems to have helped the Bucks as much as anybody. Brandon fills the gap at point guard that had been so glaring for the past three years, and Hill will fill Baker's spot without looking to shoot as much.

**WEAKNESSES**-Without Baker, Glenn Robinson will be asked to finally justify his selection as the No. 1 pick overall in 1994.

**INDIANA PACERS**  
Last season - 39-43.

**COACH**-Larry Bird, first year.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Chris Mullin (trade with Golden State), F Austin Croshere (draft, No. 12, Providence), C Mark West (free agent, Cavaliers), LOST: G Duane Ferrell (traded to Golden State), G Brent Scott (free agent).

**STRENGTHS**-The Pacers have put the memory of last year behind them—a season in which Larry Bird was on his way out and the players underachieved. Rick Smith is expected back healthy, Mullin is a fine frontcourt addition and Reggie Miller will have no problem with the 3-point line being moved back to 23 feet, 9 inches.

**WEAKNESSES**-Too old to be able to run and gun with the conference's younger teams, too predictable to come up with any surprises against the conference's older teams. Bird is an unknown quantity as a coach, but the players will definitely respect him.

**CLEVELAND CAVALIERS**  
Last season - 42-40.

**COACH**-Mike Fratello, fourth season with Cavs, 179-149; 13th season overall, 503-402.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Shawn Kemp (trade with SuperSonics), G Derek Anderson (draft, No. 13, Kentucky), G Brevin Knight (draft, No. 16, Stanford), G Greg Graham (trade with Nuggets), LOST: G Terrell Brandon (traded to Milwaukee), F Tyrone Hill (traded to Milwaukee), F Chris Mills (free agent, Celtics), G Bobby Phillips (free agent, Hornets), C Mark West (free agent, Pacers), G Sherman Douglas (traded to Denver).

**STRENGTHS**-Added one of the top power forwards to the league by acquiring Kemp, who should be happy now that he has a new \$107 million contract. Bobby Sura is poised in have a breakout year now that he's not stuck behind Phillips or Brandon. Anderson dropped to No. 13

because of bad knees. If he stays healthy, he will have been a steal.

**WEAKNESSES**-Will be going with an entirely new starting five from the one that began last season. Lost a perennial All-Star in Brandon who led the team in scoring and a one-time All-Star in Hill who shot 60 percent from the field. Center spot is a big question mark with Euro imports Vitaly Potapenko and Zydrunas Ilgauskas.

**TORONTO RAPTORS**  
Last season - 30-52.

**COACH**-Darrell Walker, second season, 30-52.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F John Wallace (trade with New York), F Tracy McGrady (draft, No. 9, Mount Zion Christian Academy), LOST: G Robert Davis (free agent, Mavericks), F Cory Foster (free agent, Mavericks).

**STRENGTHS**-One of the youngest, most energetic teams in the league, the Raptors try to take advantage by running and full-court pressing.

**WEAKNESSES**-Robinson and Elliott will have to be brought along slowly, making an already tough first seven weeks of the season even tougher. And speaking of tough, this team was a scribe when everyone was healthy in 1995-96. Is that persona gone? Avery Johnson and Vinny Del Negro have to get their shooting percentages back where they were a couple years ago.

**DALLAS MAVERICKS**  
Last season - 24-58.

**COACH**-Jim Cleamons, second year, 24-58.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Dennis Scott (trade with Magic), G Robert Davis (free agent, Raptors), C Chris Childs (draft, No. 18, Australia), F Bibba Walls (draft, No. 35, Austin Peay), F Adrian Caldwell (free agent, 76ers), LOST-G Derek Harper (traded to Orlando), F Ed O'Bannon (traded to Orlando), G Sasha Danilovic (free agent, Europe).

**STRENGTHS**-Hard to find any. The Mavs will revolve around Shawn Bradley, Michael Finley and Kurt Thomas. One is a pushover in the middle who has been run off two teams, the second is a mediocre shooter who can't carry a team and the third is a former Pat Riley favorite coming off a fractured right ankle.

**WEAKNESSES**-Robert Pack, an injury-prone player, broke his finger in an exhibition game. Erick Strickland also is hurt to start the season. It'll take years to recover from the Jason Kidd trade, which will turn out to be among the worst in NBA history. Cleamons' job security is practically nil.

**DENVER NUGGETS**  
Last season - 21-61.

**COACH**-Bill Hanzlik, first year.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Eric Williams (trade with Celtics), F-C Tony Battie (draft, No. 5, Texas Tech), G Sherman Douglas (trade with Cavaliers), F Darryl Foltson (draft, No. 10, Cincinnati), G Bobby Jackson (draft, No. 23, Minnesota), F Johnny Newman (trade with Bucks), F Joe Wolf (trade with Bucks), G Eric Washington (draft, No. 47, Alabama).

**STRENGTHS**-Lafontso Ellis is ahead of schedule in trying to come back from his latest severe injury, a torn Achilles tendon. He could be playing by the end of December. The Eric Williams trade was a very good one. Hanzlik wants to reintroduce Doug Moe's old motion offense.

**WEAKNESSES**-Got Hill in return for McDyess. Hill's return after endless times to the past couple of seasons, and it's scary to think how bad this team would be if it didn't fledge the Celtics of Williams. The patience of the fans is being severely tested.

**PACIFIC DIVISION**

**LOS ANGELES LAKERS**  
Last season - 56-26, eliminated 4-1 by Utah in second round.

**COACH**-Del Harris, fourth season, 157-89; 13th season overall, 489-430.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Rick Fox (free agent, Celtics), G Jon Barry (free agent, Hawks), F Mario Benet (free agent, Suns), LOST: F Gerry McCloud (free agent, Suns), C Travis Knight (free agent, Celtics), F Jerome Kersey (free agent, Sonics), G Byron Scott (free agent, Europe).

**STRENGTHS**-Shaquille O'Neal is the most powerful center in the league, nearly unstoppable in the low post unless you foul him. He says he wants to shoot 70 to 80 percent at the line this season, but we'll see if he can. Fox is a good pickup, a scorer coming off the bench. Robert Horry has the old 3-point line range. Kobe Bryant has been playing well in the preseason.

**WEAKNESSES**-There's O'Neal's foul shooting, of course, and there's Nick Van Exel's temperament. It's hard to say which is more volatile. Eddie Jones and Eiden Campbell were complete oncofactors in the playoffs against the Jazz. Campbell might come off the bench if Horry, who has bulked up, starts at power forward.

**SEATTLE SUPERSONICS**  
Last season - 57-25.

**COACH**-George Karl, seventh season with Sonics, 323-129; 11th season overall, 442-305.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Vin Baker (trade with Bucks), F Dale Ellis (trade with Nuggets), F James Cotton (draft, No. 33, Long Beach State), F Jerome Kersey (free agent, Lakers), F Stephen Howard (free agent, Jazz), G Greg Anthony (free agent, Vancouver), F Aaron Williams (free agent, Grizzlies), LOST: F Shawn Kemp (traded to Cleveland), F-C Terry Cummings (free agent, 76ers), G Greg Graham (traded to Denver), F Steve Scheffler (traded in Denver), F Larry Stewart (free agent).

**STRENGTHS**-Gary Payton can score with either hand better than anyone in the NBA. He can defend anyone, break down most opposing point guards and dominate like no other playmaker in the West.

Baker won't perform with the flair that Kemp did, but he'll put up similar numbers. The team won't miss the broodiness and unpredictability of Kemp. Ellis, the career leader in 3-pointers, is a good pickup.

**WEAKNESSES**-The Sonics were always at their best when Kemp was at his best, and they'll miss him until they get used to Baker's game.

There's still a problem at center, where Jim McIlwaine will be used sparingly. Last year's play-off starter, you'll remember, was Cummings.

**PHOENIX SUNS**  
Last season - 40-42, eliminated 3-2 by Seattle in first round.

**COACH**-Danny Ainge, first full season, 40-34.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Antonio McDyess (trade with Nuggets), F George McCloud (free agent, Lakers), F Clifford Robinson (free agent, Trail Blazers), G Stephen Jackson (draft, No. 43, Arizona), LOST: G-F Wesley Person (traded to Cleveland), G Wesley Dumas (traded to Cleveland).

**STRENGTHS**-The Suns will field small lineups of three point guards (Jason Kidd, Kevin Johnson, Steve Nash) or four guards (Rex Chapman or Jackson) and a forward that focuses on opposing coaches to match up. Since few teams are as deep at guard as the Suns, it works to their advantage. Probably the deepest team in the NBA, Phoenix also figures to be the No. 1 or No. 2 team in next summer's free agent market.

**WEAKNESSES**-As always, the Suns are weak at center with Horacio Llamas the only true center behind Hot Rod Williams. They won't get past the Lakers in the playoffs that way. They had to trade Person in order to get McDyess, but he was their leading 3-point shooter last year with 171.

**PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS**  
Last season - 49-33, eliminated 3-1 by Lakers in first round.

**COACH**-Mike Dunleavy, first season with Blazers; seventh season overall, 208-284.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Brian Grant (free agent, Kings), C Kelvin Cato (draft, No. 15, Iowa State), G Alvin Williams (draft, No. 48, Villanova), F Sean Higgins (free agent, Europe), LOST-F Clifford Robinson (free agent, Suns), C Chris Dudley (traded to New York), G Marcus Brown (free agent, Grizzlies), G Mitchell Butler (free agent).

**STRENGTHS**-Came on strong at the end of last season, winning 20 of last 25 games. Kenny Anderson and Rasheed Wallace are coming off strong seasons. For the first time in a history, Arvydas Sabonis didn't pay international ball over the summer. He has been healthy through the preseason. Grant will do more dirty work than Robinson did.

**WEAKNESSES**-Isaiah Rider, who is appealing a two-game suspension from the league for his off-the-court transgressions, will be tested by the new 3-point line. The changes coaches from P.I.

Carlesimo to Mike Dunleavy will mean a period of getting used to each other. Still a very, very young team.

**LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS**  
Last season - 36-46, eliminated 3-0 by Utah in first round.

**COACH**-Bill Fitch, fourth season with Clippers, 82-164; 25th season overall, 927-1041.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G James Robinson (free agent, Timberwolves), C Stoyko Vrankovic (trade with Timberwolves), F Maurice Taylor (draft, No. 14, Michigan), C Keith Cross (rookie free agent, Central Connecticut State), G James Collins (draft, No. 37, Florida State), LOST: F-C Charles Oatlaw (free agent), F-C C Stanley Roberts (traded to Miami), G Malik Sealy (free agent, Detroit), Terry Dehere (free agent, Sacramento).

**STRENGTHS**-Loy Vaught is the Clippers' most stable player, an 82-game starter last season who led the team in scoring and rebounding. Rodney Rogers is one of the league's most underrated unknowns. Fitch made this a productive team last season.

**WEAKNESSES**-There's a one steady player in Vaught but the roster is laden with mediocrity from here down and there's no one scorer who can make the Clippers an above 500 team. Close, got a big contract but it's questionable whether he'll adequately replace Oatlaw.

**SACRAMENTO KINGS**  
Last season - 34-48.

**COACH**-Eddie Jordan, first full season, 6-9 last season.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Lawrence Funderburke (free agent, Europe), F Olivier St. Jean (draft, No. 11, San Jose State), G Anthony Johnson (draft, No. 49, College of Charleston), C C Rhyker Stewart (rookie free agent, Cal), G Terry Dehere (free agent, Clippers), LOST: C Duane Causwell (free agent, Heat), F Brian Grant (free agent, Trail Blazers), G Tyus Edney (free agent, Celtics), G Jeff Grayer (free agent).

**STRENGTHS**-They still have the best pure shooting guard in the league in Mitch Richmond, an enigmatic forward in Billy Owens and an underrated center in Olden Polynice. They've sold every seat at Arco Arena since moving from Kansas City.

**WEAKNESSES**-Richmond has been putting more than ever this pre-season, but the front office refuses to grant his wish and trade him. The team took a huge step backward last season with a swoon in March after making the playoffs the previous season. Grant and Causwell haven't been adequately replaced.

**GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS**  
Last season - 30-52.

**COACH**-P.J. Carlesimo, first season with Warriors; third season overall, 93-71.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** G Brian Shaw, F David Vaughn (trade with Orlando), F Dickey Simpkins (trade with Bulls), F Duane Ferrell (trade with Pacers), C Adonal Foyle (draft, No. 8, Colgate), C Erick Damper (trade with Pacers), LOST: G Mark Price (trade with Orlando), F Scott Burrell (traded to Chicago), F Chris Mullin (traded to Indiana), F Andrew DeClercq (free agent, Celtics), F Ray Owens (free agent), F Lou Roe (free agent).

**STRENGTHS**-They have a prolific scorer in Latrell Sprewell and a very good power forward in Joe Smith, who did not have his contract extended in the offseason and may become a free agent next summer.

**WEAKNESSES**-The Warriors are deep at point guard with B.J. Armstrong and Embo Coles.

**WEAKNESSES**-Will miss Mullin, who finally got his wish to play elsewhere. Gave Burrell away for too little. Donyell Marshall has 6 years left on his contract.



agent, F Aaron Williams (free agent, SuperSonics), C Eric Mobley (waived), F Lawrence Moten (free agent, Italian League).

**STRENGTHS**-Have the foundation for a strong frontcourt with Shareef Abdul-Rahim, who averaged 18.7 points as a rookie, and Bryant Reeves, who was signed to a six-year, \$66m contract extension. Daniels, a slick, 6-foot-4 ball-handler, is the future of the backcourt. Roy Rogers is a hard-working, underrated member of the front line.

**WEAKNESSES**-Still going through growing pains as they enter their third year in the league. Hill will be the third coach. Thorpe could add a veteran presence. He's always been a winner, but he already wants to be traded. Abdul-Rahim is a poor defender.

**DALLAS MAVERICKS**  
Last season - 24-58.

**COACH**-Jim Cleamons, second year, 24-58.

**CHANGES-ADDED:** F Dennis Scott (trade with Magic), G Robert Davis (free agent, Raptors), C Chris Childs (draft, No. 18, Australia), F Bibba Walls (draft, No. 35, Austin Peay), F Adrian Caldwell (free agent, 76ers), LOST-G Derek Harper (traded to Orlando), F Ed O'Bannon (traded to Orlando), G Sasha Danilovic (free agent,





# Radio 3's search for an audience

By CHARLES SOLOMON

The Israel Broadcasting Authority's flagship pop radio station, Radio 3, announced in February that it would be increasing the Hebrew content of its music programming from 40% to 60%.

The move was made in response to the station's declining popularity. But eight months later, listeners have not returned in droves, and Radio 3 is taking the dramatic step of completely dropping "international" music from its programming. As of Saturday, it will broadcast a 100% Israeli repertoire.

Radio 3's director of operations, Amnon Shiloni, told *The Jerusalem Post* that its new programming policy will attract many older listeners. Younger listeners will move to other radio stations and MTV. It is a formula he is certain will succeed.

The main beneficiaries are the artists themselves, who will now have the opportunity to be heard on a national radio station, 19 hours a day. The losers are the public at large.

In its heyday in the '70s, '80s and early '90s, Radio 3 boasted a listening audience of 30%. It has now shrunk to below 8%. Many of Radio 3's original audience have

matured and want "middle of the road" music adult-oriented rock and easy listening. The station's managers had to ask themselves whether Radio 3 should be for this audience, for the whole family, or for teenagers. Its original mandate was broad enough to cover all these categories.

With the introduction of MTV into the local market, younger audiences no longer just listen to music, they watch it. Radio has become obsolete for them. (Remember the prophetic '70s Buggles song "Video Killed the Radio Star"?)

The introduction of local radio stations two years ago meant that Radio 3 found itself in a crowded marketplace and searching for an audience.

Radio 3's main rival has always been Army Radio. The IDF's new music station, Army on Wheels, has proven to be immensely popular, especially its weekend programs, which are very low key and unobtrusive.

Despite its poor ratings, Radio 3 generates an annual income of NIS 25 million (with annual running costs of NIS 10m.) from advertising and sponsorships (surely a sign of a station's health).

This is enough to support itself, as well as The Voice of Music (the IBA's classical music station) and Kol Haderech Le'asakim (IBA's Dan Region pop radio station, which could eventually replace Radio 3).

The government has set up a commission to look into the workings of the IBA's operations. A committee headed by communications professor Amnon Zuckerman was rumored to have recommended that Radio 3 be either privatized or closed down.

The station's current managers decided that the only way of preventing the station's possible closure would be to convert it to a purely Israeli music station.

They are gambling on the likelihood that it will be much harder for the government to close down a radio station that is promoting and supporting Israeli culture.

## Tower Records: The place for pop

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Distance may prevent Israelis from dancing in London's clubs on the weekends, but it does not prevent the latest British hits from reaching local CD players in record time, said Andy Lown, managing director of Europe and the Middle East for Tower Records.

"The Spice Girls sell here like they do in Kensington," said Lown, who paid a visit to Tower's Israeli outlets last week. "It took America a year to catch up."

Trends in Israel move in and out of fashion quickly, helping to drive growth in the local music industry, said Lown. Since arriving in Israel four years ago, Tower Records has grabbed a 11.8% market share and expects to more than double it to 25% within the next 18 months.

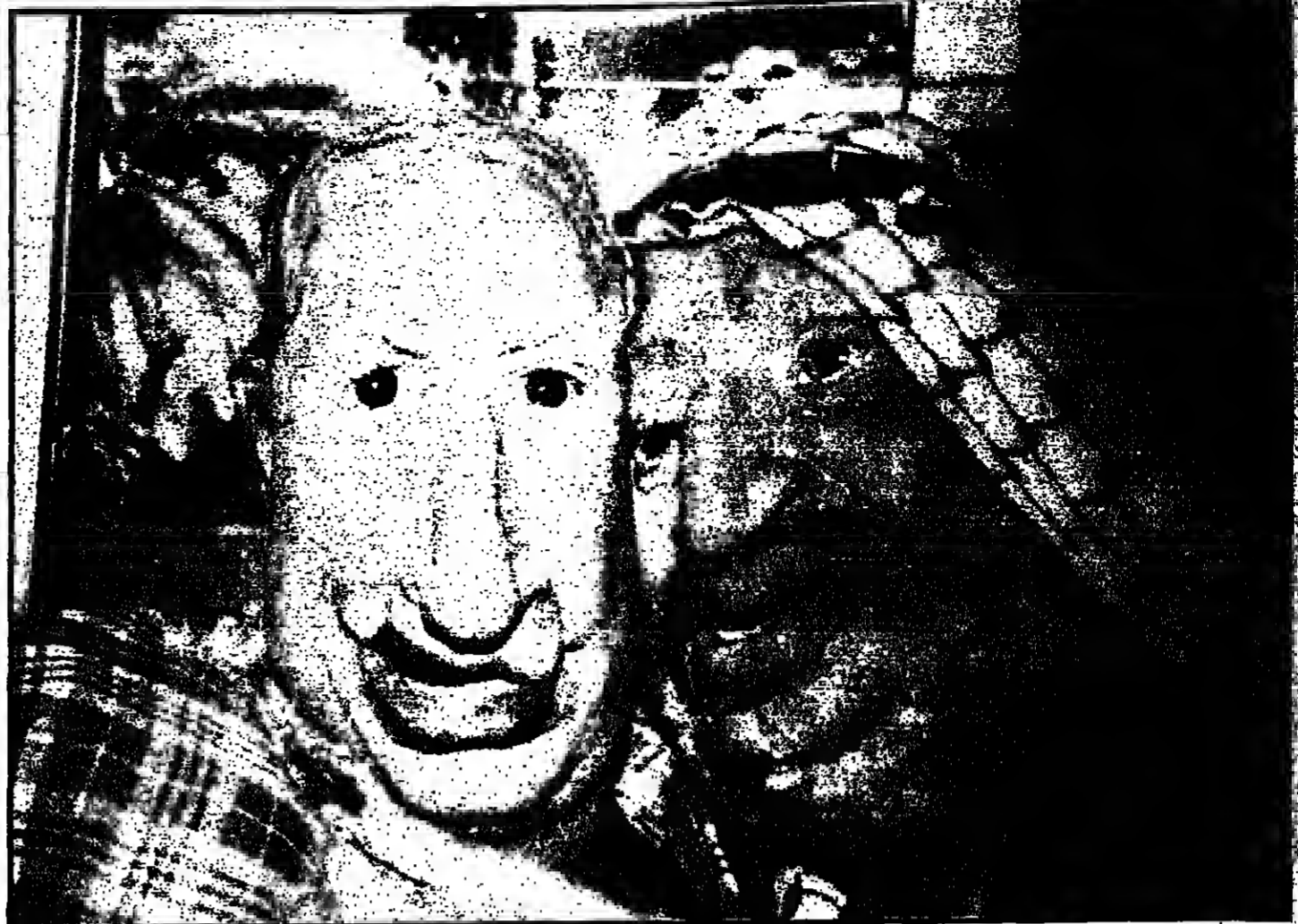
In comparison, Tower holds between 6 and 7 percent of the British market.

As for Tower's steeper-than-

Piccadilly prices, Lown says that this is the result of the company's policy of supporting the local industry by buying albums through them, rather than importing direct from the US or England.

"We may be perceived as being expensive sometimes, but people don't hear both sides of the story," Lown said. "The next Rita album will only make it to the market if [the local] Helicon [label] makes enough money to record her. [They make this money] by selling U2 disks to us. We make it a priority to work with local record companies."

The company, based in Sacramento, California, is currently setting up smaller outlets, known as Tower Express, in Hamashbir stores throughout the country. And recently, the company celebrated the Ramat Gan opening of a multi-entertainment outlet that combines Tower Records, Steinmetzky's and Bug computer software in one store known as Hippo.



### No strings attached

*Hatzufim*, the country's most biting political-satire TV show, is back for its third season, starting tonight at 9:15 on Channel 2. The caricature puppet show, utilizes the voices of Tuvia Tsafir and others. The scripts are written by leading satirists, such as Ephraim Sidon. New puppets for this season include Finance Minister Yaakov Neuman and new models of Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, as the old ones were worn out last season. *Hatzufim* has its own Internet site which, on Tuesday nights, previews the following day's skits. The address is: <http://www.netking.com/hatzufim> (Text: Elana Chipman/Photo: Yoel Haimanach)

## Not coming to a theater near you

By CLAUDIA PORG

Those who look at the flooded movie marketplace and think Hollywood executives just don't know how to say no may be comforted to know that, in fact, there are times when they turn down movie pitches.

Otherwise, we might be awaiting the opening of films about futuristic devil robots bent on world domination, Jackie-Chan-Meets-Waiting to Exhale, and a Mafia musical.

In an era when everyone complains that simply too many movies get made, here's a glimpse at just what doesn't make the cut with development executives and others who green-light films.

Though no one can articulate the winning formula in movie making, Hollywood executives have very definite ideas about what doesn't work, which genres are dead as doornails, and which projects should never make it to the megaplexes.

In the best of all possible worlds, the pitch is an established Hollywood tradition that consists of filmmakers and wannabes snapping off their best and brightest ideas to studio bonchos who consider them thoughtfully. In this idyllic scenario, the film concept is then snatched up, scripted and packaged, with the result being a box-office hit.

But most pitches never make it past that first set of ears. Some are interesting concepts, but uncommercial. Others are simply unacceptable — a yawn at best, downright ridiculous at worst.

Producer Brian Grazer was recently followed out of his office building and through the parking lot by someone pitching a film about futuristic devil robots. "This guy asked for just 20 minutes, then he walked me down to my car saying, 'Let me just talk to you,'" Grazer said. "It was a story about tough evil robots that are going to take over the world. First, I don't get robots to begin with. And evil robots? I'm lost on that."

Gramercy Pictures President Russell Schwartz recently went through a spell where a disproportionate amount of pitches involved



One of Hollywood's worst recent pitches featured the dark-eyed, wise-cracking Janeane Garofalo (seen here with Una Thurman in *The Truth About Cats and Dogs*) as a serial killer.

projects starring actress Janeane Garofalo. (The studio's *The Matchmaker*, starring Garofalo, opened in the US this month.) The worst pitch, he said, was one that featured the dark-eyed, wise-cracking Garofalo as a serial killer. "Last year, we got about a dozen with Frances McDormand attached."

Lindsay Law, president of Fox Searchlight Pictures, which produces lower-budget movies and art films, says he gets pitches for a variety of literary-based projects, some of which cannot and should not be translated to the screen.

"They come to us with lots of dreary literature," Law said. "All the obvious ones have been made into movies, so people are constantly going through their dustbins or their Penguin libraries. We get all these well-meaning pitches, but what they aren't telling us is it's slow and dull and dreary."

If dawdling literary adaptations are out of favor, don't bet on frenetic or nihilistic, violent fare either. That well has gone dry after a string of low-budget misfires including *Keys to Tulsa*. "Anything that's Tarantino-esque is out," said Mike De Luca, president of production at New Line Cinema. "It's kind of been done."

"I don't want anything that has negative role models or negative

themes," Grazer said. "Really bad guys — gangsters, psycho killers — are totally uncool. And so are soulless movies about revenge. Anything that doesn't have a soul, I give a big 'no' to."

When a genre movie has been a dud at the box office, it is guaranteed that related pitches will fall on deaf ears. Thanks to the resounding failure of *Cuthroat Island*, swash-bucklers need not apply.

"The pirate genre is dead," said Justin Dardes, vice-president of APA, Feature Literary division. "People just cringe. It's not even worth bringing it up. It's a period thing and it's difficult mounting a film on water. There's always an exception, but in that particular genre, we couldn't find one."

Straight-ahead action movies, such as those that star Steven Seagal or Jean-Claude Van Damme, are no longer a hot commodity — unless they have a unique spin.

"One thing that people are passing on is formula," said Marc Platt, Universal Pictures' president of production. "I think people tend to say no to the kind of action films that were done in the '80s and early '90s. People are searching for what will make this story line and genre fresh and original, what will set it apart in a crowded marketplace."

"The action genre has kind of run its course and needs to reinvented the genre," Dardes said.

"The idea of *Die Hard* in a building or in a streetcar — their eyes roll when they hear that. It has to have very strong character development. There has to be a reason why we go along for this ride." Tales of alien invasions are a gray area. Some say they're still selling, others avoid them as they would a black hole. "Anything alien is out," De Luca said. "It's been post-modernized out by Will Smith."

"Anything with an alien is good," Dardes said. "That's the absurd thing about this business. We're like cattle being led to slaughter." Period pieces are iffy, as well. Largely, it depends on the period.

Westerns are pretty much out, though there are some exceptions, like the hip Western. Likewise, the clock is ticking on stories of women feeling the pressure of their biological clock.

"Movies about women needing to get married because their mothers want them to have children: It's just boring," De Luca said. "Don't you think there's more you can say about women? When you hear those pitches it's like those voices of adults in Charlie Brown: 'Wah Wah Wah.' You immediately tune out."

Then there are those that are just plain odd, the half-baked ideas that leave studio executives cold.

Law recalled how he and some other Fox executives were treated to an hour-long pitch (most are under half an hour) centring on an obscure psychologist and his theories and dreams.

"They described the entire movie scene by scene," Law said. "In five minutes we knew we didn't want to do it. It was a wildly unlikely fantasy and not at all palatable."

Another item in the unlikely department: De Luca pitched a slim concept titled "Mac E," the rap version of *Mac the Knife*. "It was from five white guys, no less," he said. "When I asked what music they were thinking of using they said, 'Oh yeah. We can get the music later.' That kind of genre mixing is a big no-no in my book." (AP)

### CLASSIC DISCS

## Copland and Korngold revisited

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

EMI's Anglo-American Chamber Music Series, conceived and artistically directed by Israela Margalit, is totally charming. Margalit managed to engage some of her musical friends to perform some neglected chamber music masterpieces. The result is most engaging and revealing. The Copland disc (Piano Quartet; Sonata for violin & piano; Rodeo — solo piano version; Duo for flute and piano. Soloists of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra; Israela Margalit, piano. Anglo-American Chamber Music Series: EMI Classics 7243 5 55405 2 2) is the

real winner here, and Margalit herself shines throughout. Her rendition of the piano version of the Rodeo ballet suite is simply stunning.

Without the orchestral colors to help her, Margalit manages to draw an American portrait of a society which loves the notion of life. It is a powerful performance. This piece is coupled with some other lesser-known Copland works such as the powerful sonata for violin and piano and the beguiling, brilliantly written piano quartet.

Copland (1900-1990) is one of America's greatest composers, a musician who wrote very much in the European tradition yet built

from it a specific American musical language.

Korngold (1897-1957) is somewhat different. This is a composer who is much more deeply rooted in the European tradition — as his piano trio and violin sonata suggest. As with the Copland disc, the performances are first-rate, faultless chamber music-making which allows us to appreciate the musicians and, at the same time, reveals some neglected works that are definitely worth hearing. (Piano trio, Violin sonata. Soloists of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra; Israela Margalit, piano. Anglo-American Chamber Music Series: EMI Classics 7243 5 55401 3 6).

**book** department

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by Beth Elton

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## Ten facts about Handel and his 'Messiah'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Handel's father was a barber-surgeon and valet to the Prince of Saxe-Magdeburg. At the age of 61, this man of all trades took a second wife, Dorothea Taust, daughter of the pastor of Giebichenstein. Handel was the second child of this marriage.

In 1741 Handel was invited to Ireland, where he presented what would eventually become his most famous composition, *Messiah*. It premiered on April 13, 1742, and was first heard in London a year later, on March 23, 1743.

Excited by the music, King George II rose to his feet at the conclusion of the Hallelujah chorus.

In deference to the king, the rest of the audience followed suit. Since then, at every performance of *Messiah*, it has become a worldwide tradition for the audience to stand up for the Hallelujah chorus.

After one performance of this pinnacle of his career, Handel remarked: "My Lord, I should be sorry if I only entertained them; I wished to make them better."

On another occasion the composer is said to have remarked, "When I wrote *Messiah*, I did think I saw all Heaven before me and the great God Himself."

Describing the Hallelujah chorus, Handel said: "Whether I was in my body or out of my body as I wrote it, I do not know. God knows."

On April 14, 1759, on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Day, Handel died in London. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, where a monument by Roubilliac marks his grave.

Handel was often accused of plagiarizing the music of his contemporaries. An article in the 1880 edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* condemns Handel's free-style borrowing of music: "The system of wholesale plagiarism carried on by Handel is perhaps unprecedented in the history of music."

He pilfered not only single melodies but frequently entire movements from the works of other masters, with few or no alterations, and without a word of acknowledgment." When asked why he borrowed from the composer Bononcini, Handel replied that his music "is much too good for him; he did not know what to do with it."

The text of *Messiah* comprises sections from the Old and the New Testament.

The soloists singing the text are a soprano, alto (or countertenor), tenor, and bass. The choir can comprise anywhere from 50 to 500 members.

Although *Messiah* has been one of the most popular choral works around the world for many years, it was not performed in Israel because of demands by members of the Orthodox sector who were offended by the mere idea that Israelis would perform a work about Jesus.

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem (Rehovot as it was known at the time) first presented Handel's *Messiah* five years ago under the baton of music director Avner Biron, with the Latvian choir Ave Sol.

Among the soloists at the time was Israeli mezzo-soprano Hadar Halevi, now a major international opera star. Conductor and choir are identical in the coming set of performances.

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem presents Handel's *Messiah* under the baton of music director Avner Biron, with the Latvian Ave Sol choir. The British soloists are soprano Monika Frimmer, countertenor Lawrence Zazzo, tenor Joseph Cornwell and bass Colin Campbell. Tonight at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem, tomorrow at Wix in Rehovot, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Tel Aviv Museum, and next Monday in Kfar Sava (8:30 except Friday at 2).

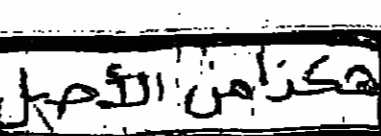
**THEATRE**

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**REHEARSAL**

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CRITICS' CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

The Jerusalem Khan's powerful production of Anouilh's Antigone is directed by Gedalia Besser...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Haifa Symphony Orchestra opens its 1997/98 season with concert performances of Verdi's tragic operatic masterpiece La Traviata...



Soprano Teresa Ringholz sings Verdi. (Karin Engles)

New film contains some of the acclaimed English writer/director's best impulses alongside a few of his worst ones. The movie is a small, sometimes comic character drama...

FILM

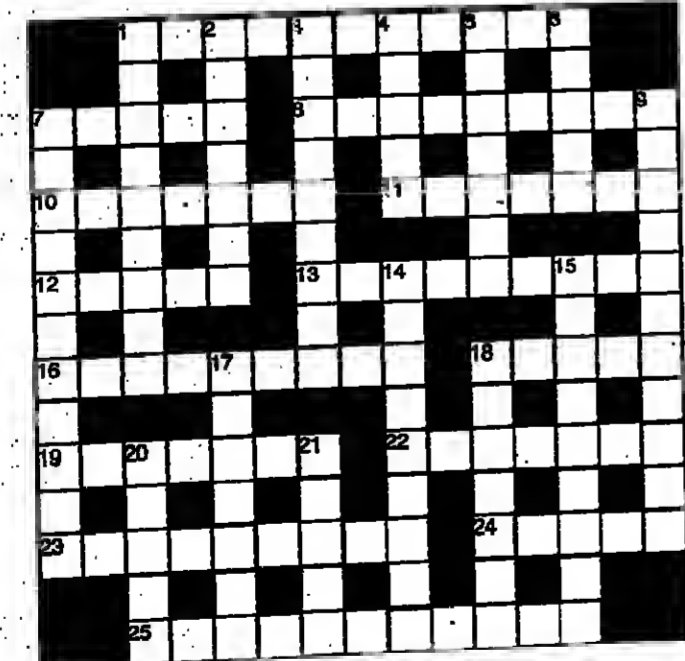
ADINA HOFMAN

CAREER GIRLS — Perhaps best appreciated as a Mike Leigh microcosm, this...

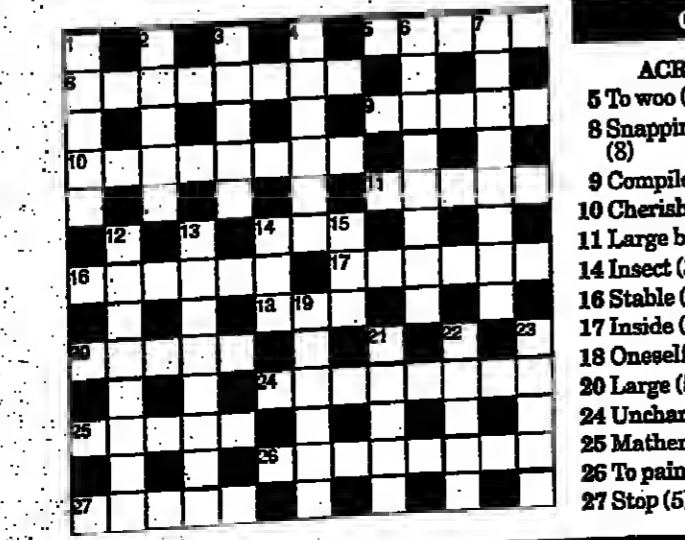


CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Sat trying bib, perhaps, doing this job? (4-7) 7 Requires pounds, say (5) 8 Against going to tennis ground where we beat the French once (9)...



SOLUTIONS



- ACROSS: 5 To woo (5) 8 Snapping break (8) 9 Compiles (5) 10 Cherishes (8) 11 Large box (5) 12 Stable (6) 13 Inside (6) 14 Oneself (3) 15 Large (5) 16 Unchangeable (8) 17 Erroty (5) 18 To pain (8) 19 Stop (5)...

TV

- CHANNEL 1: 8:30 News flash 8:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Good Morning Israel 13:00 Holy Koran 13:10 Carbons 14:30 Spellbinder 15:00 Monsters Today 15:30 Border Town 16:00 French programs 16:30 News in French 18:30 News headlines 18:35 Neighbors 19:30 Oprah Winfrey 20:10 Spenser for Hire 21:00 News in English 21:30 Land's End 22:15 American Gothic...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:30) listing TV programs like News, Ramat Aviv, Dark Skies, Gov Night, etc.

March and Ava Garcha 00:10 La Belle Noiseuse (French, 1991) — a study of the process of artistic creation through the portrait of an aging artist who returns to the painting of his wife with a younger woman as his model...

Messiah

NEWS

in brief

Israeli Druse tourists briefly held in Cairo

Egyptian authorities briefly detained two Israeli Druse tourists caught pointing cameras at a bridge across the Nile River.

Dell: Tenders follow established procedures

Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell yesterday rejected attacks on the validity of tenders issued recently for positions in the Authority for Values Education.

Hammer: No classroom hours missing

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday attacked Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann for alleging that 70,000 classroom hours are still missing in the education system.

Treasury reneges on railway budget increase

Expansion of the railway system will be stalled by the Treasury's decision not to honor its commitment to increase the 1998 budget for railways.

Going up, but not in smoke

If you are going on a flight and you smoke, your chances of lighting up during the flight are a lot slimmer. From today, there is to be no smoking on El Al and Sun D'Or flights.

PM's mother gets pacemaker

Shaare Zedek Hospital cardiologists yesterday implanted a pacemaker into the chest of Tzila Netanyahu, the 86-year-old mother of the prime minister.

Hanegbi slams Yosef's remarks on justice system

By BATSHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday blasted former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef, calling on him to retract remarks he had made about the courts.

Netanyahu added that he had seen with his own eyes how important the proposed reform of the courts is and had discussed the necessary budget with Barak.

Netanyahu added that he had seen with his own eyes how important the proposed reform of the courts is and had discussed the necessary budget with Barak.

verdict. We will not tolerate this and will use all the means at our disposal to prevent violence and threats against judges.



From Norway with love Mirjam Nielson (center) and two friends from Oslo pose with Norwegian flags at yesterday's inauguration of the Jewish National Fund's King Harald V and Queen Sonja Forest in the Jerusalem Corridor.

Budget expected to easily pass first Knesset vote

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The first vote on the 1998 budget is expected to sail through the Knesset today, after Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday told members of the coalition that there is room to maneuver.

While Neeman stressed that the NIS 207.4 billion budget, which includes NIS 2.3b. in cuts, could not be increased, he indicated to coalition members that he is willing to discuss coalition demands.

Speaking in the Knesset later in the day, Neeman encouraged both opposition and coalition MKs to put aside their individual interests and to consider the general good of the population when voting on the budget.

An unsavory incident in the Knesset cafeteria

Something in the Knesset cafeteria was particularly unsavory yesterday - a racist incident. During a meal hosting visiting industrialists, MK Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash) approached one of the waiters and asked him in Arabic if he were an Arab.

Sa'ad was surprised by the answer and, told Speaker Dan Tichon about it. The waiter works for a personnel agency which sent him to the contractor who runs the Knesset catering service.

Replying for the opposition, MK Avraham Shohat (Labor) said the budget is "anti-society, anti-Zionist and will lead to a deepening of the recession, an increase in unemployment, and a reduction in investments."

social benefits, 17.6% to defense, 15.2% to civil expenses and 6.4% for investments and credit.

MK Cabel stages Rabin protest

MK Eitan Cabel (Labor) held a one-MK protest yesterday against the fact that the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin is not marked anywhere in the Knesset.

Cabel said the Knesset pictures of Rabin just state: "Born 1922, died 1995" as if he just passed away.

Israel pledges to give Jordan \$50m.

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - Israel has officially informed the US Congress that it will provide \$50 million in assistance to Jordan in the coming year.

In a letter sent yesterday to members of the House and Senate appropriations committees, Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar said that Israel is reaffirming its commitment to provide the aid.

Attached to the letter was a copy of a letter affirming Israel's willingness to assist Amman sent by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to President Bill Clinton earlier this year.

position, but Congress has been reluctant to appropriate additional tax dollars for foreign aid.

However, Israel did not want the money taken off the top, out of concern it would set a precedent for future aid cuts.

Yesterday's development appeared to eliminate the final hurdle to Israel's receiving the first installment of its 1998 package.

Obey's spokeswoman, Kori Hardin, said that Obey was satisfied that the matter is now settled.

WEATHERS section with a map of Israel and weather forecasts for various cities like Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Eilat.

AROUND THE WORLD table showing weather forecasts for various international cities like Amsterdam, Buenos Aires, Chicago, etc.

Knesset to check kidnapping claims

A Knesset subcommittee will be established to make possible the provision of scientific answers about the identity of people claimed to have been "kidnapped" during the early years of the state.

It will recommend criteria for genetic testing of missing "children" and "parents" and send them to the health or science minister for implementation.

TO THE NEGEV From Abraham till Ben-Gurion DREAMS VISIONS REALITY. Advertisement for a travel tour in the Negev region, including dates and contact information.

GOLDEN YEARS supplement advertisement. The Jerusalem Post will publish the Golden Years Supplement in Israel and outside the country.

Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including Hebrew Press Review and Neema.

Handwritten text at the bottom center of the page: מזכרון תל אביב